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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 205

TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 2011

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think the
Saipan legislative
delegation adequately
consulted the public
on the casino issue?

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INSIDE



Irene Fizzles Out

Tropical Storm Irene leaves behind
treacherous flooding and millions
without power.

NATION...Page 14



Expectant Couple

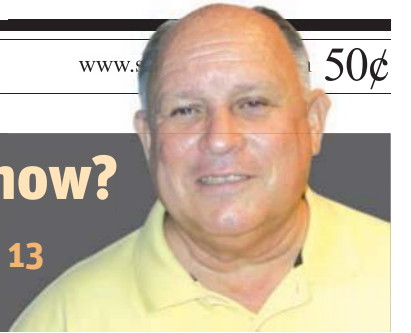
Beyonce and Jay-Z's offspring was
the breakout star of Sunday's MTV
Video Music Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Regarding employee visas: What should I be doing now?

QUESTION: I have a small business with nine non-U.S. citizen workers. I have been waiting patiently for the Transitional Worker regulations to come out, but it's getting very close to the Nov. 28 deadline for the start of the CW visa program. What can I do to prepare for this?

See Page 13



FROM \$305M LAST MONTH

Fund portfolio drops to \$271.3M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From over \$305 million last month, the NMI Retirement Fund's investment portfolio plummeted to just \$271 million in mid-August, the drop being blamed on the recent volatility in the stock market and the continued withdrawals being made to pay for members' pension benefits.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez disclosed yesterday that the CNMI pension program's asset value dropped by \$34 million to \$271,321,977 as of Aug. 19 this year.

RELATED NEWS

Fund asks court to temporarily reduce members' benefits.
PAGE 4

See FUND on Page 4

'Bring the casino issue to court now'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some members of the House majority are calling on the Senate or any member of the public to bring the local casino bill issue to court now, to put to rest lingering questions about the constitutionality or legality of the bill.

The amended House Local Bill 17-44, which passed the Saipan



Torres

See CASINO on Page 4



U.S. NAVY

Navy aircrew from HSC-25 stand with the three survivors after transporting them back to Saipan for medical care. The three fishermen lost their 23-foot vessel in hazardous seas 15 nautical miles northwest of Saipan early Sunday morning.

3 fishermen rescued after vessel sinks

GUAM—U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and U.S. Navy Sea Combat Squadron 25 rescue three fishermen from a life raft adrift in treacherous seas 15 nautical miles northwest of Saipan.

Three fishermen from the 23-foot fiberglass commercial fishing

vessel *Norma* abandoned their boat into a small life raft after the vessel took on water and sank in the early morning hours. Sector Guam received the distress alert from the fishermen's Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon at approximately 3:30am Sunday local

time and immediately requested air support from the Navy.

HSC-25 was on scene and began searching within two hours. Sector Guam continued to update the helicopter air crew with the location of the EPIRB signal throughout the

See FISHERMEN on Page 4

Census data justifies reducing Legislature's size. PAGE 3
Salt intake increases risk for stroke, heart attack. PAGE 6



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Local

DHS probes USCIS fees scam; law firm staff arrested

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is looking into complaints of several persons that their applications and fees for federal immigration benefits were not being filed by a law firm with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

As part of the investigation, ICE agents arrested over the weekend one suspect, Maria Nina Dolot Castro, on charges of mail fraud. Castro appeared without counsel at a hearing Sunday afternoon.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the clerk to appoint a counsel for Castro and allowed her to post bail—a \$5,000 unsecured bond—with some conditions.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 16, 2011 at 10am.

ICE special agent Clayton T. Statler stated in his affidavit filed in court on Sunday that the Homeland Security Investigations resident agent on Saipan received information from a number of individuals that their applications and fees for federal immigration benefits were not being filed with the USCIS.

These individuals, Statler said, claimed to have used the legal services of attorney Danilo T. Aguilar.

He said some of the individuals complained that Castro, an employee of Aguilar, was not filing their applications and that she was using the USCIS fees they have provided with their applications for her personal use or to pay the fee for applications belonging to other people.

Statler said that, on Friday,

Aug. 26, Norlane Arlene Vargas Rafanan, one of the complainants, met him and HSI special agent Isra Harahap to discuss and provide documents of her encounters with Castro.

Mrs. Rafanan stated that she and her husband, Reynaldo Rafanan, submitted two immigration applications for their two children to Castro, who at the time, worked in Aguilar's Law Offices. The applications were to adjust the status of their two children to lawful permanent residents.

Mrs. Rafanan signed the immigration applications on Oct. 20, 2009, and submitted them to Castro. After seven days, Mrs. Rafanan gave Castro five U.S. Postal Service money orders in the amounts of \$1,000, \$355, \$600, \$10, and \$355 to pay the USCIS fees associated with the applications.

The payee ("pay to") and payor ("from") fields of the money orders were blank because Castro told Mrs. Rafanan that she would complete these fields for Mrs. Rafanan.

In January of 2010, Castro informed Mrs. Rafanan that Castro sent the two immigration applications to USCIS on Jan. 28, 2010.

The following month, Mrs. Rafanan called Castro to inquire about the status of the two immigration applications again. Castro told her that one of the employees

sent the applications to the wrong address and the applications were returned on Feb. 16, 2010.

In April 2010, Mrs. Rafanan received a phone call from Castro telling her that she was talking with her boss, Aguilar, and that Aguilar said Mrs. Rafanan needed to sign a new I-485 form (application to adjust status) because there is a new form.

On April 14, 2010, Mrs. Rafanan received the new I-485 form from Castro.

Statler said sometime after January 2011, Mrs. Rafanan asked for proof from Castro that the two applications, along with the five money orders, were sent to USCIS. In response, Statler said, Castro provided Mrs. Rafanan with a copy of a USPS express mail parcel label displaying tracking number.

When Mrs. Rafanan followed up with USPS about the status of the five money orders, Statler said the results indicated that the \$1,000 money order was made payable to "Ma Nina D. Castro" and the payor was listed as "Joji T. Pamintuan." The remaining four money orders indicated the payor as the "Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar," and the payee as the "Dept. of Homeland Security."

In March, Statler said, Mr. Rafanan confronted Castro about the \$1,000 money order that was made payable to "Ma

Nina D. Castro." Castro stated that she didn't know what he was talking about and she would check into it. At Rafanans' request, Castro provided the couple with receipts for the five money orders that they submitted to Castro.

Statler said the receipts all indicated that they were made payable to the "Dept. of Homeland Security" and were from the "Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar."

Castro told Mr. Rafanan that one of the Rafanans applications was in the USCIS computer system. Mrs. Rafanan stated that she followed up with USCIS and USCIS told her that the applications for her two children were not in the USCIS computer system.

Statler said he obtained information from USPS and USCIS that Rafanan's two applications were not in the USCIS computer database and have not been received by USCIS.

"I also learned that four of the five money orders were received by USCIS but that they were included in applications for people other than the Rafanans' two children," Statler said.

The special agent said he further learned that the fifth money order for \$1,000 was made payable to Castro from a payee named Joji T. Pamintuan.

In addition, Statler said his investigation revealed that the four money orders were received by USCIS on Dec. 21, 2009.

Cop in domestic violence pleads not guilty

Jerome Agulto Reyes, a police officer facing charges he beat up his girlfriend, pleaded not guilty yesterday in Superior Court.

Reyes, who appeared with counsel Edward Arriola Sr., is facing two counts of assault and battery and two counts of dis-

turbing the peace.

On Thursday, associate judge Perry B. Inos allowed Reyes to post bail—\$1,000 cash and \$9,000 unsecured bond.

Inos allowed former police commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and Dolores Reyes Drew to be

the defendant's third party custodians. Tudela and Drew are the biological parents of Reyes.

A detective stated in his report that Reyes beat up the girlfriend in the presence of her 9-year-old daughter at their apartment last Aug. 13. (Ferdie de la Torre)



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Docomo Golf Classic for Marianas Tourism Education Council

The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) has again been named the beneficiary of the second **DOCOMO Pacific Golf Classic** slated for Sept. 3, 2011.

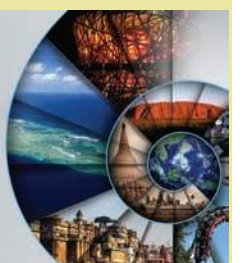
MTEC is a non-profit organization promoting community awareness on the importance of the visitor industry in the Northern Marianas. MTEC's primary target group is school children, and the organization often works with school MY WAVE clubs.

MTEC membership is free and open to business organizations, public offices, and private individuals. MTEC has recently conducted a television ad campaign, rewarded school groups for participating in island clean-ups, and helped launch the "Hafa Adai Tirow Way" campaign promoting visitor hospitality in the community. If you are interested in helping with exciting community projects promoting tourism, or would like more information about MTEC, contact **Marianas Visitors Authority** Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.2210.

Entry forms for the Docomo Pacific Golf Classic are available at Docomo Pacific Gualo Rai and all Saipan golf courses. Entry fee is \$85.



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'Census data justifies reducing 29 House, Senate members'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said the 2010 Census data showing a 22.2-percent drop in the CNMI population justifies the need to cut the number of Senate and House members, currently at 29.

Demapan said he not only supports Palacios' initiative to reduce the number of seats for Saipan House members from 18 to nine, but is also looking at reducing the number of senators for each island.

Of the 20 House members, 18 are from Saipan and one each for Rota and Tinian. The nine-member Senate has three mem-

bers each from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Palacios, in an interview yesterday, said he will stick to his initiative's intent of reducing the number of Saipan House members by half or from 18 to nine, considering that there's a grave need to reduce expenses at a time when the population has also gone down. He earlier said he might amend his initiative.

"The CNMI is broke. One way to reduce expenses is reduce the number of lawmakers in the House. It can be done," Palacios said.

He also supports Demapan's statement to also look at reducing the number of senators.

Palacios' House Legislative Initiative 17-4 has been with Demapan's JGO Committee since February this year. Demapan had said the committee will wait for the results of the 2010 Census data to help back up the initiative.

The U.S. Census Bureau released last week the results of the 2010 Census showing that the CNMI's population shrunk from 69,221 in 2000 to only 53,883 in 2010.

With these numbers, Demapan said that the committee feels more comfortable reviewing Palacios' initiative. He said the Census data is a concrete basis for supporting the initiative.

The CNMI also now has the smallest population among U.S. states and territories.

Saipan's population decreased by 22.7 percent, or from 62,392 to only 48,220.

Election Districts or Precincts 1 and 3 each have a 15,000 pop-

ulation, and each is represented by six House members.

Precincts 2, 4 and 5 each have two House representatives but their population count differ. Precinct 5 has a population of 7,207; Precinct 2 has 6,382; and Precinct 4 has 3,847.

Rota's population shrunk by 23 percent, or from 3,283 in 2000 to only 2,527.

Demapan said with only 2,527 on Rota, there's a need to consider reducing the number of lawmakers from Rota—three senators and one House member.

The same goes with Tinian, which has a population of only 3,136—an 11.4-percent drop from the 2000 count of 3,540. Tinian also has three senators and one House member.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview, said the Senate supports Palacios' HLI 17-4.

"We welcome Rep. Palacios' initiative. If they have a tough time passing it in the House, we'll pass it right away at the Senate," Manglona said.

Douglas Brennan, presi-

dent of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber endorses Palacios' initiative to reduce the number of seats in the Legislature.

Demapan said if the fiscal year 2012 budget passes the House this week, his committee will work right away on Palacios' initiative. The panel is also considering public hearings on HLI 17-4.

"This is a very contentious, very significant piece of legislation that's why we need public hearings," he added.

15 public schools, Head Start centers pass inspections

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So far, 15 public schools and Head Start centers in the Commonwealth have passed inspections conducted by the Bureau of Environmental Health to ensure that they are ready for classes in September.

John Tagabuel, the deputy secretary for public health administration, said yesterday that these schools cover all elementary campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well as Head Start facilities.

The Public School System runs 20 public schools and 10 Head Start facilities throughout the CNMI.

Tagabuel said the bureau is expected to complete the inspection of the five remaining

junior high and high schools this week in time for the opening of classes on Sept. 6.

"We only have a few schools left for inspection as of last week and BEH is expecting to complete everything this week or next week in time for the opening of classes," said Tagabuel.

He said that all water samplings are also expected to be completed this week.

Besides public schools, the bureau also inspected private schools, Tagabuel said.

The bureau is a division of the

Department of Public Health and promotes health and safety standards in workplaces, including public schools.

Tagabuel pointed out that school campuses are priority areas that must comply with health requirements to protect schoolchildren from bacteria and diseases due to an unclean environment.

Each school year, all schools are required to renew their permits with DPH and comply with certain requirements of the Division of Environmental Quality.

PIC Palooza raises some \$6K for women's shelter

About \$6,000 was raised in this year's Pacific Islands Club Palooza which aims to benefit Guma Esperansa, the only shelter for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Deidre Halstead, PIC resident manager, said they sold a total of 212 tickets for the event, which had a Country & Western theme.

She said a number of businesses bought tickets to the event and gave them away to employees.

Halstead said various contests such as Take It or Pass It and the Horse Shoe competition as well as live performances from the Icon Band and the PIC Clubmates entertained the guests.

Contest prizes included accommodations at PIC Saipan and Guam and Aqua Resort Club; dinner for two at the Seaside Grill and Aqua Resort Club; Magellan brunch; Boutiki gift vouchers; waterpark passes; and handmade bags

made by the ladies from the Guma Esperansa.

PIC sports, entertainment and activities director Cole Pritchard and activities manager Glenn Policare hosted the event.

"We have always found holding PIC Palooza to be a very effective way to raise money to support local charities," Halstead told *Saipan Tribune*. "It is a way for PIC to give back to the community and everyone has a great time in the process." (Clarissa David)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club activities manager Glenn Policare gives the contest mechanics to PIC general manager Hiro Sugie, left, as activities manager Dennis Tababa listens in at the PIC Palooza event last Saturday. The event, which would benefit Guma Esperansa, raised about \$6,000.

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New budget bill in the works

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The fiscal year 2012 budget bill that was introduced on Friday will not be the same measure that the House is expected to act on during today's session because of a substitute budget bill that was being readied yesterday.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan)

confirmed late yesterday afternoon that there's a substitute budget bill, but said there are not that many major changes from the original measure.

Basa cited, for example, a change in the provision on public land appropriation provision. But he said the 16-hour work cut every two weeks will remain.

He also said that the "seed money" for the Department of Public Health, which is transitioning into a corpora-

tion, will still be \$5 million.

"We're hoping that we could generate additional revenues so we can continue to help DPH," he said.

The \$102 million budget bill's introduction came barely a month before the start of fiscal year 2012 on Oct. 1.

If and when the House passes the budget bill today, it goes to the Senate, which is expected to refer it first to Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) Fiscal

Affairs Committee before the full Senate could act on it.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate looks forward to receiving a House-passed budget bill.

A budget deadlock between the House and Senate last year resulted in the partial government shutdown that sent over 1,000 government employees jobless for days until lawmakers were able to agree on a budget.

HB 17-215 gives a budget of \$4 million to the Judicial Branch, over \$4.509 million to the Legislature, and over \$29.394

million to the Executive Branch.

Rota's budget is at over \$4.474, while Tinian's is over \$4.361 million. Saipan and the Northern Islands are proposed to have a budget of over \$1.219 million.

The rest are for other programs and agencies including over \$4.018 million for the Northern Marianas College, over \$5.030 million for the Marianas Visitors Authority; over \$27.905 million for the Public School System; and \$175,393 for the Board of Education.

It's not known whether these appropriations will change under the substitute budget bill.

FUND

From Page 1

By and large, the continuous withdrawals from the portfolio in order to pay for the pensions of retirees are to blame for the steep plunge, Villagomez said. Called drawdown, these withdrawals average \$2.3 million monthly.

In the last 10 years, the highest the Fund's investment had been was in

2007, when the total portfolio was valued at \$510.1 million.

With the central government and some autonomous agencies failing to pay their employer's share, the Fund has been forced to drawdown from its invested assets to meet its obligation to members. These withdrawals have depleted the portfolio to a point where its lifespan is projected to last just three years.

The recent stock market bloodbath

that resulted from Standard & Poor's downgrading of the United States' credit rating also had an impact on the Fund's asset basket. Villagomez said the agency had a negative 10.63 percent return on its investments from July 31 to Aug. 19 this year. For the fiscal year to date return—from Oct. 1, 2010 to Aug. 19, 2011—the return on investment is at a paltry +0.04 percent. In 2007, ROI was at 15.8 percent.

Villagomez pointed out that the Fund's under-funded situation has been an issue since its inception and continues to be an issue despite the agency's efforts to compel the CNMI government to provide appropriate funding.

"Our elected officials are fully aware of the financial status of the Fund because we present it to them every chance we get in an effort to get sufficient money to support the system," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The most recent instance was a joint meeting a few days ago where the Fund and its consultant, Wilshire Associates, advised lawmakers that the Fund will run out of money in three years unless its liabilities are restructured.

"The Fund has been shortchanged for too many years, leaving no other options," he said.

Early this year, the Fund's actuary, Buck Consultants, also gave a presentation to the Legislature on the fiscal year 2009 actuarial valuation report and the Fund's short outlook if funding issues are not addressed.

Villagomez said that members of the Fund should demand that retire-

ment contributions be prioritized in the budgeting process this year and every year forward to ensure the pension program's perpetuity. Under the proposed fiscal year 2012 budget, only \$10 million is being proposed for the government's employer share.

To prolong the Fund's life, it is estimated that the central government needs to make a yearly contribution of at least \$58 million every year for the next 10 years.

With respect to the restructuring of liabilities, Villagomez said that the Fund is governed by law and plans to comply with the Retirement Fund Act or any order of the court with respect to payment of benefits to members and their survivors.

"However, it is the Fund's position that pension is an obligation of the employer, the CNMI government and each autonomous agency with respect to its employees and that once the funds set aside in trust for payment of such pensions are exhausted, the CNMI government will be obligated to pay pension benefits from the Commonwealth treasury," he added.

TO ADDRESS 'EMERGENCY SITUATION'

Fund asks court for temporary reduction in members' benefits

» Pleads to reconsider \$100M set-aside order
» Wants immediate takeover of Marianas House in DC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To save the retirees' pension program from collapse, the NMI Retirement Fund has asked the Superior Court to order a temporary cut in the benefits paid to retirees as an immediate way to restructure the Fund's liabilities.

The Fund wants the benefit cuts to take effect by Jan. 1, 2012.

The Fund also asked Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo to reconsider a June 29 ruling that mandated the agency to set aside \$100 million as a reserve fund for active government employees and retirees who have yet to collect their pension benefits.

These requests, filed Friday by Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo and Braddock J. Huesman, also asked the court to allow the immediate turnover of Marianas House in Washington, D.C. to the Fund as partial satisfaction of a court judgment. Govendo, at the last hearing, had deferred awarding the property to the Fund.

Last Friday, the Fund had also asked the court to appoint board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar as at-

torney-in-fact for the CNMI with full and irrevocable power and authority to transfer ownership of the Marianas House to the Fund, which plans to sell the property so proceeds of the sale will offset and reduce the judgment.

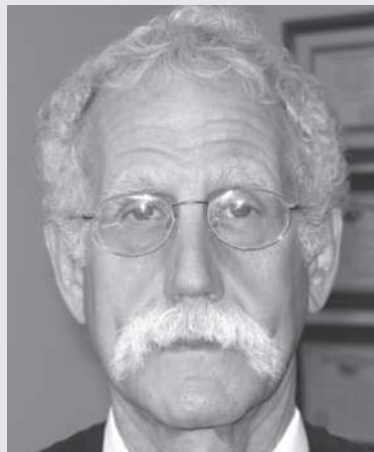
The court had determined in June 2009 that the central government owes the Fund over \$231 million in unpaid employer contribution. That amount has gone up since then.

According to the Fund yesterday, there is no law in the CNMI that allows the board of trustees to unilaterally restructure benefit payments to retirees. In order to restructure the Fund's liabilities, the court is being asked to use its "equitable powers" in order to restructure the Fund's liabilities by temporarily reducing benefits to members.

'Participation, mediation'

In Friday's filing, the Fund also asked the court to order the Fund, the CNMI government, and the Commonwealth Retirees Association to participate in a court-supervised mediation to come up with an equitable agreement on the restructuring of the Fund's liabilities.

"The Fund is hoping the court will



Govendo

issue an order that will allow the Fund to implement some type of restructuring of liabilities no later than Jan. 1, 2012," the Fund's statement said.

The Fund encourages those in support of its motion to make that support known to the court and to the Legislature. It invites them to a hearing on the motion on Sept. 29 at 1:30pm in courtroom 205A before Govendo. The hearing is open to the public.

Last week, Fund's investment consultant Wilshire Associates disclosed that the plan's current portfolio—valued at just over \$3 million—will only allow three years of existence for the pension program.

medical care.

One of the survivors described the sinking as "almost occurring in an instant, the boat was moving forward, began taking on water and was just gone from right under us."

The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the sinking.

Coast Guard Sector Guam reminds mariners that a properly registered 406MHz EPIRB can save your life. Registration information can be very helpful in confirming that a distress situation exists, and in arranging ap-

propriate rescue efforts. If the EPIRB is properly registered, the Coast Guard will be able to use the registration information to immediately begin action on the case. If the EPIRB is unregistered, a distress alert may take as much as two hours longer to reach the Coast Guard over the international satellite system.

Mariners, if you have an EPIRB on board your vessel, confirm it is properly registered today. To register, visit <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/>. There is no charge for this service. (U.S. Coast Guard)

CASINO

From Page 1

and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Friday afternoon, was transmitted yesterday morning to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

The Fitial administration said the governor will carefully review the local bill, which seeks to legalize casino gambling on Saipan. The governor is expected to sign the local bill into law.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the casino bill, said yesterday that anybody besides Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) or the Senate should not wait longer to take the matter to court.

"Anybody can bring this matter to court now. If they want to go to court, then go to court now so that we can get it over with," Torres said.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan delegation committee that reviewed and recommended the passage of HLB 17-44, CS1, said he wishes the Senate could bring the matter to court "immediately" so that the questions will be put to rest and the CNMI can move on.

"Either take this to court now rather than wait for House action on the Senate bill, or shut up and let it go. We were again not paid last Friday and the government's finances and the economy are really suffering," he said, adding that casinos will help spur economic activities.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate is still "very hopeful that at the end of the day, the House will support Senate Bill 17-90."

SB 17-90, passed by the Senate on

Friday, seeks to ask Saipan voters once again whether they would allow casinos on the island. The last time Saipan voters rejected the same question was in 2007.

But Torres, Palacios, and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) don't expect the Senate bill to be acted on by the House.

"The focus now is the 2012 budget," Basa said.

Under the Senate bill, a special election to ask voters shall be held within 90 days from the law's effective date.

Senators said the bill will not wait for November 2012 to ask voters, so the earlier the House passes the Senate bill, the earlier it would be for voters to decide whether they want casinos on Saipan or not.

But Torres said the Senate could have passed a similar bill six months ago or earlier, and not when the delegation was scheduled to pass the bill also last Friday.

"It's a delay tactic by the Senate," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona reiterated that even if the governor signs the local casino bill into law, no investor in his right mind will come in to operate a casino, knowing that the local law legalizing casino gambling on Saipan is open to court challenges. He cautioned that casino operation "is not a silver bullet" that will solve all the CNMI's financial problems.

The Senate maintains that HLB 17-44 is unconstitutional. The Senate also killed last year a House bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan, saying that the issue should be decided on by voters.

FISHERMEN

From Page 1

search. At approximately 6:50am, the HSC-25 aircrew spotted a large white cooler and small rigid foam raft with three fishermen inside being tossed by 10-foot seas. There was no sign of the F/V *Norma*. The HSC-25's rescue swimmer deployed to assess their condition and to help hoist the three survivors. All three were recovered in good condition and brought to Saipan for

Malae creates working group to tap underutilized grants

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Abe Utu Malae has formed a working group that will explore and scrutinize untapped and underutilized grants that may help the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. address its current funding shortfall.

Malae, CUC's executive di-

rector, wants the involvement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in this effort and has invited its senior program manager for Region 9, Carl Goldstein, to join the working group.

In a letter dated Aug. 23, 2011, Malae said the working group will focus on the application, allocation, and pos-

sible re-allocation of federal funding for CUC.

In addition, he said he wishes to investigate any other sources of funding available to the CNMI or to CUC directly so that the CNMI government and CUC can meet their obligations under the stipulated orders.

The stipulated orders represent an agreement between the CNMI and EPA on the steps that CUC must meet in order for it to be compliant with the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. It was issued in March 2009 by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson, setting re-

quirements and deadlines for CUC to meet.

Stipulated Order 1 reshuffles CUC's management and financial structure to enable it to provide potable drinking water and wastewater services. Stipulated Order 2 requires CUC to create an infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer, including possible environmental cleanup.

"While CUC is eager to implement system improvements mandated by the SO [stipulated orders], we are constrained by the availability of funding and the affordability of rates to customers. Of all utilities on U.S. soil, CUC's utility ratepayers are

the least able to afford the cost of energy and suffer from low average household incomes and high power and water costs," Malae told Goldstein in his letter, adding that these circumstances have resulted in the agency scrambling to find funding to comply with the federal mandates.

"We know that there are many knowledgeable people in the areas of funding, and we are hoping that through collaborative problem-solving, we can discover untapped or underutilized opportunities to pursue," said Malae.

He emphasized that EPA's participation in the working group is important and will bring potential benefits to CUC. These benefits include improvement of grant applications by

combining the collective expertise of CUC and EPA and increasing the quality and number of grant applications.

Malae said the effort will also improve rankings in competitive granting by coordinating grant applications and the potential for more grant awards for the CNMI or CUC.

The first meeting of the new working group is on Sept. 21 at 8:30am. Malae hopes to get a positive feedback from the EPA official by then.

CUC earlier admitted that, despite trying its best to meet the federal standards, it would be difficult for the agency to comply with all stipulated order requirements due in 2011 because of the lack of available funds for the projects.



Malae

Man who kicked cop, damaged police car gets 30-day sentence

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has imposed a 30-day prison term on a man who, while drunk, kicked a police officer and damaged a police vehicle.

Naraja sentenced 37-year-old Joseph Jones Villagomez to a year in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, with credit for time served. Villagomez will start serving his sentence on Sept. 1; he will be released on Sept. 16. He will then be placed on one year of probation.

Villagomez was also required to do 50 hours of community service and pay a \$100 fine, \$100 probation fee, and \$25 court assessment fee. He was also directed to pay \$226 in restitution for the cost of repairing the glass at the Department of Corrections, and damage to a police vehicle in an amount to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation.

In March 2010, the Office of the Attorney General

charged Villagomez with three counts of assault and battery, two counts of criminal mischief, two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of resisting arrest.

Villagomez pleaded guilty to assault and battery and criminal mischief as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped. Villagomez was represented by chief public defender Adam Hardwicke.

The case arose from an incident on Feb. 28, 2010, on Saipan, when Villagomez kicked a police officer's head, damaged the passenger door of a police car, and broke a window at DOC.

Police officers had responded to a Kagman residence after receiving a call about a disturbance. When the officers arrived, Villagomez, who was drunk, was seen shouting at his sisters.

Villagomez reportedly has a history of resisting arrest and had damaged windows of police cars in the past. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Naraja

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'Salt intake increases risk for stroke, heart attack'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Jacqui Webster of The George Institute for Global Health in Australia underscored

the importance of reducing salt intake, citing growing evidence that it increases the risk for stroke and heart attack. "Salt had an overall health benefit for several millennia as a

way of preserving food. With the advent of refrigeration, the benefits are now outweighed by the harms. Once it was a precious commodity and now it's mass produced in increasing

amounts and causing enormous burden of disease as a result of this," said Webster.

Webster was among the presenters at the CNMI Non-Communicable Disease Training held at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday. Over 100 health care professionals and administrators attended the first day of the two-day training organized by the Department of Public Health.

Yesterday's training also featured presentations about diabetes and eye health, tobacco and cancer, nutrition and cancer.

Webster, who is also the senior project manager for the Australian Division of World Action on Salt & Health, noted that an average person only needs about one to two grams of salt daily.

"We actually need very little salt to be healthy," she said.

Webster noted that salt consumption throughout the world increased rapidly since the discovery of its preservative

properties by the Chinese some 6,000 years ago.

"The average person tends to eat between eight to 10 grams a day now," said Webster.

According to Webster, about 90 percent of most people's salt intake comes from sodium chloride, although others get it from additional sources such as monosodium glutamate or MSG, sodium bicarbonate, and sodium nitrate.

"It's the sodium in salt that's bad for our health," she warned.

Webster said there is growing evidence that salt increases blood pressure and raises the risk for heart attacks and strokes. On the other hand, there is also growing evidence that reduction in salt intake results in reduced blood pressure and lowered risk of cardiovascular diseases.

"If you reduce salt to five to six grams a day, you could reduce stroke by 24 percent and coronary heart disease by 18 percent," said Webster.

These figures, Webster added, translates to 600,000 lives in the Western Pacific Region alone and some 2.5 million lives a year worldwide that could be saved through salt reduction programs.

Webster noted, however, that salt reduction initiatives should not just involve raising consumer awareness and putting out low-salt products in the market.

She emphasized key elements of salt reduction strategies around the world, which include mobilization or getting people together to discuss what the problem is and identify sources of salt; conducting a baseline assessment to determine the current level of salt intake among people, consumer awareness, and salt levels of food products in the market; and developing actions and strategies that would reduce salt intake by changing consumer behavior and product labeling as well as collaborating with the food industry.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Jacqui Webster of The George Institute for Global Health in Australia talks about the importance of salt intake reduction at the first day of the CNMI Non-Communicable Disease Training held yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Chamber opposes tax hike measure; urges govt to cut spending instead

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan has told Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) that the Chamber is "vehemently opposed" to the lawmaker's proposal to increase gross revenue taxes, saying it would "further decimate an economy already in recession."

"Now is not the time to extract, through increased taxation, funding for government expenditures from businesses that are barely surviving," Brennan told Torres in a letter dated Aug. 27.

Torres formally introduced his House Bill 17-212 on Friday; it is now under committee review.

Brennan said increases in the cost of doing business in the CNMI would have a net

negative effect on business activity, consumer pricing, actual revenue generated by the proposed increases, and jobs in the CNMI.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, is opposed to the bill's proposal to increase the tax on the total gross revenue of individuals in the CNMI, a tax on agriculture and fishing, and increased taxes on manufacturers and wholesalers.

Brennan took note of the bill's findings: "During this time of financial hardship, it is necessary for the government to reduce expenditures and increase revenues."

"SCC would ask what the Legislature has accomplished, besides oversight on some reductions in Executive Branch salaries, whereby the Legislature has reduced its own expenditures," Brennan said.

He said the Chamber endorses the legitimate need to reduce the size of the Legislature, as outlined in numerous attempts to scale down seats in the Legislature itself, including an initiative that Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced early this year.

Torres' bill says the burden of adjusting to the current level of available resources should be shared by all members of the economy and not placed on only one group.

Brennan said the Chamber finds this statement "not only unenlightened, but inflammatory" as well.

He also said the calculation in the bill is "suspect." The bill says the maximum tax on gross revenues would be increased from 5 percent to 6 percent, thereby increasing a \$100 purchase to \$101.

Care, shelter emergency task force created for NMI

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has formed an emergency task group that will provide protective shelters, temporary lodging, and feeding of persons affected by disasters and other emergency situations in the CNMI.

In a letter to Marilyn Shigetani, Department of Homeland Security deputy director for the Pacific Area-Region 9, the governor informed the federal agency about the creation of CNMI MC/EA Task Force, or Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Task Force.

The group is tasked to formulate a comprehensive and

structured emergency procedure or plan to be consistent with the Standardized Emergency Management System and the National Incident Management System for use in the Commonwealth.

Fitial designated the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs as the responsible lead agency for the implementation of the annexation of the emergency support function in coordination with the director of the CNMI Emergency Management Office.

The lead agency is also tasked to work with the gov-

ernor's appointed representative during, before, and after an emergency or precautionary evacuation.

The governor also designated eight departments as support agencies to the task force. These include secretaries or designees from the departments of Public Health, Public Works, Public Safety, Public School System, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas president, Red Cross executive director, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director, and Karidat executive officer. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Cheaper locally grown shrimps in the offing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customers of Saipan Aquaculture Co., Inc., which produces the Marianas Sweet Shrimp, will soon benefit from a price markdown, thanks to reduced production cost since they started producing their own post-larvae or baby shrimps.

Mel Catalma, Saipan Aquaculture operations manager, said that they made their first harvest of post-larvae shrimps in November 2010. They did their fourth harvest last Saturday.

"Our target is to produce 200,000 post-larvae shrimps per month to sustain our target production," he said.

Catalma disclosed that Saipan Aquaculture used to import these post-larvae shrimps, costing them some \$3,000 per month.

Catalma said they learned about shrimp larvae hatchery production in their efforts to

lower expenditures, noting that Saipan Aquaculture wants to be "vertically integrated" and not dependent on the import of post-larvae shrimps.

Their hatchery production supervisor, Fredson Huervana, recently attended the Vannamei 101 training in Thailand.

Vannamei 101 specializes in providing technical service to shrimp hatchery and broodstock development programs throughout Asia. It uses techniques and management strategies that are essentially a blend of the best techniques from the East and the West.

According to Catalma, their post-larvae shrimps are the product of interbreeding six different foundation stocks or grandparent lines of shrimps considered among the best breeds in the world.

"Since we have our own growout [tanks], we can monitor these interbreed offsprings. So

far, they exhibit great shrimp quality," he said.

Catalma said the savings from the import cost are particularly significant since the community continues to suffer from economic recession.

"We plan to pass on these savings to our consumers," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Our plan is to drop our prices before the end of the year to make our fresh shrimp competitive with the frozen shrimp available in the market."

Catalma said the Marianas Sweet Shrimp will be available at reduced cost at the Sabalu and Tuesday markets, Triple J Super Fresh, Joeten store chains, and possibly other stores on island.

With the success of their shrimp hatchery production, Catalma added that they have already received inquiries from potential post-larvae markets in Guam, Palau, and the U.S. mainland.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Aquaculture Co. hatchery production supervisor Fredson Huervana shows the post-larvae shrimps that were harvested at their facility Saturday. The company, which produces Marianas Sweet Shrimp, plans to make the prices of their fresh shrimp products competitive with frozen shrimp by lowering it before the end of the year.

Destinu Peru: Helping others across the world

The students at Saipan International School know that even the best education can't compete with life experience. In June this year, a group of 16 students went to Peru on a journey that the school organizes every two years for students in their high school. The trip, coordinated by Mili Saiki, provides them with a fast-paced journey through some of the most picturesque regions in the country, enabling students to enjoy the culture and landscape, as well as providing them the opportunity to practice Spanish, financial management, and a means of making a difference in the world.

This year, the trip began in Lima, where the group headed to the Presidential Palace and Congress for a private tour to understand the political situation in the country, followed by a cultural excursion into the San Francisco Catacombs, also located in Peru's capital. The next day, they met with other students from a local school, Villa Alar-



Members of the Saipan International School delegation have their picture taken in Machu Picchu in Cusco, Peru.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

in a classroom. We believe an important part of the SIS experience is to develop our values and the daily interactions these students had provided a wonderful opportunity to practice the human virtues of compassion, integrity, and citizenship. We are extraordinarily fortunate and proud to be able to offer such an experience for them."

The philanthropic aspect of the trip enables students to step outside the privilege of their education and upbringing and face the realities of the modern world, as they are lived by the less fortunate. Though many aspects of the philanthropic journey the children made were difficult, it is Saiki's belief that they will empower the students to see how they can make an impact with only a little time and dedication.

"Helping the elderly made me realize that even though they don't have much they are still happy with what they already have and I should learn to respect what I have and not ask for more," said Amy Xie, who now plans to join the Peace Corps.

Abel Pellegrino shares a similar outlook.

"Donating to charities and becoming part of organizations like the Red Cross really go a long way. A little bit of your time can make a huge difference if we all become involved," he said. (PR)



A llama stands on a promontory that overlooks Machu Picchu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ife and from there proceeded to a home for the elderly, where they put on a show to entertain the residents. Their dances and songs received enthusiastic applause from the men and women of the home.

This would be one of the many charitable events the students would put together while they were in Peru. Later, they would visit the Children's Hospital to perform dances, sing songs, bring good cheer and show the children, many of whom were bedridden, how to weave.

"I have no doubt that this one has been a very powerful lesson for the kids of Destinu Peru," Mili Saiki, the trip organizer, wrote on the Wall of Destinu Peru's Facebook Group. "From the beginning many wondered why these children were here, how they'd been hurt, but in the end, care and kindness trumped curiosity and everyone forgot the reasons and learned to see each child as they are, individuals with dreams, ideas, curiosity, and a great desire to play."

The students visited several cities in Peru, among them Cuz-

co, Aguas Calientes, Arequipa, Pisco, Paracas, Nazca, Pisac, Chivay, and even Puno, which found itself in a state of social unrest. Among the cultural wonders that Destinu Peru explored were the ancient Inca ruins at Machu Picchu, the natural stone slides at Sacsahuaman, the fortress at Ollaytantambo, the floating islands of Uros on Lake Titicaca, the Cruz del Condor at Colca Canyon, the monastery of Santa Catalina, the Nazca Lines, and the Ballesta Islands. They even rafted on the tumultuous Chili River.

"The best part of the trip was not only seeing all the interesting historical landmarks like Machu Picchu and experiencing a whole different culture, but also being with my closest friends and experiencing it with them," said Celine Camacho, one of the Destinu Peru students. "I know that closer friendships were made on that trip."

Evert Van Der Maas, another student, said the experience had done much for his life outlook. "Going at this age was perfect because it prepared me for col-

lege," Van Der Maas said.

The impetus for taking students to Peru comes from a deep conviction by trip founder and organizer Mili Saiki that the skills provided in school are radically augmented with experience. Abilities, she believes, are not fixed, but flexible things that can be modified and enriched when students are able to apply what they know to new situations that have results that directly impact their experience in a way that grades often do not.

Saipan International School has always prided itself on creative teaching methodologies that encourage students to think not just in practical ways but in creative ones as well. The key is not to educate through memorization, but to inculcate the importance of assessing situations and applying the knowledge they already have. Travel, in this sense, is a test of all of these qualities, enabling students to enjoy themselves while developing a deeper interest in the topics of language, modern and ancient culture, geography,

politics, currency fluctuation, art, industry, and conservation, among others.

The headmaster of Saipan International School, Dr. Dale Jenkins, shares the enthusiasm for the experience and what the students learn during their time in Peru.

"At SIS we really try to help the students develop in all aspects of their lives, social, aca-

demic, and emotional," said Jenkins, who has been at the helm since 2004.

"Destinu Peru provides a unique opportunity for them to see a vastly different culture than that which they can experience on Saipan," Jenkins said. "Peru's history, geography, and social fabric is unique in the world and the things the students learn cannot be duplicated



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1. Lessons Start	4-5PM	Sat., Sept. 3	Mariana Resort Hotel
2. Second Lesson	4-5PM	Sat., Sept. 10	Kan Pacific Pool
3. Third Lesson	4-5PM	Sat., Sept. 17	Kan Pacific Pool
5. Fourth & Final Lesson	4-5PM	Sat., Sept. 24	Kan Pacific Pool

COST IS \$25 PER PERSON, \$20 FOR SECOND AND SUCCEEDING FAMILY MEMBERS.
American Red Cross Certificates will be issued after the lessons.

Bank of Guam leads sponsors for Make-A-Wish gala

Hagatna, Guam—Bank of Guam is once again leading the Gold Sponsors for the Make A Wish Foundation's annual Black Tie & Tennesse Gala on Oct. 8, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Bank of Guam has provided gold sponsorship annually for Make A Wish Foundation's Gala fundraising effort, and this year, Guam's most talented musicians present "Motown Magic"—a special musical performance with hit songs from America's Motown greats.

"Bank of Guam's long-time association with Make A Wish Foundation is evidenced through our consistent sponsorship and our board presence. Make A Wish provides much joy to our local children through their wish program, and we commend them for their heartfelt service," said Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer and board chair.

The Make A Wish Foundation of Guam grants the wishes of children from Guam and the



From left, Mike Naholowaa, Bank of Guam vice president and Make A Wish Foundation board vice chairman; Joyce Q. Crisostomo, Make A Wish Foundation board chairman; Albert Wu, Make A Wish Foundation board member; Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, board chair and chief executive officer; and Jackie A. Marati, Bank of Guam senior vice president and former Make A Wish Foundation board member.

Northern Marianas with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Bank of Guam is Guam's largest locally owned bank. Recently reorganized to a bank holding company, Bank of Guam reports

assets of over \$1 billion, with 24 branches and over 80 ATMs throughout Micronesia and San Francisco. **(BOG)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS' start of classes

Saipan Southern High School will start school year 2011-2012 on Sept. 6, Tuesday. Classes will start at 8:30am and end at 3pm. Should you have questions, call the SSHS principal directly at 237-3702 or the SSHS main office at 664-4000. **(PR)**

Orientation meeting for KES kinder parents

There will be an orientation meeting for all Koblerville Elementary School's kindergarten parents on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, at 6pm at the KES cafeteria. Please bring your child with you. If you have any questions, call 483-5647. **(PR)**

DEQ cleanup on Saturday

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade is picking up trash at Jeffrey's

Beach in Talafofu on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representative at the entrance to the beach. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north, south, east and west until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will get a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1.

Air Force, Navy training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Aug. 30, 9am to 9pm
- Sept. 1, 9am to 9pm

The Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Aug. 31, 8am-5pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Common-

wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **(USN)**

Veteran outreach in September

This is to let all veterans and all concerned know that Tina San Agustin, Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan on Sept. 28-29, 2011 for a veterans outreach on veterans federal benefits. She will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims. The outreach will be held at the Military & Veterans Affairs Office on Capital Hill, Bldg. No. 1364, Saipan. If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. **(PR)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 30, 2000

Proposal seeks to establish protected areas in Tinian

Some areas on Tinian will be declared protected region for wildlife conservation under a plan pending with the local legislative delegation in an effort to safeguard resources and endangered species found on the island. The proposed measure offered by Rep. Norman S. Palacios will also impose fines of between \$100 to \$1,000 for violations within the region which will be established within the Suicide Cliff and extending to Rion Point in the island municipality. Conservation of such wildlife as coconut crabs, fruits bats and various species of birds, is important not only to Tinian residents and future generation, but also to the local economy as it tries to develop eco-tourism, according to officials.

CPA's paid parking program draws criticism

The decision by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to impose parking charges at the Puerto Rico seaport received disapproval from the public especially motorists who regularly do business at the harbor, in what appears to be a manifestation that the CNMI is still reeling from hard economic times. But CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas the newly-implemented paid parking system at the Saipan seaport has been anticipated to solicit mixed reactions from the public since it would entail additional expense on their part. "In the long term, they will realize the merits of the paid parking scheme because their vehicles will be highly secured and should be free from vandalism that we used to have here on the island," Salas said.

Aug. 30, 2001

PSS faces shortage of education specialists

The Public School System recently acquired new specialists to staff its Special Education Program but admitted it is still grappling with a nationwide shortage of SPED experts that has left critical areas of the local program inadequately attended. Acting Associate Commissioner for Secondary Education Rita A. Sablan said PSS has been affected by the national crisis on the lack of available SPED and related service providers, leaving vacant some crucial positions in the PSS' SPED program. Though PSS recently hired new off-island specialists, Sablan said recruitment efforts are still ongoing amid goals to improve services offered to school children with special needs.

CIC expands to Palau

Former President Kuniwo Nakamura of the Republic of Palau has been appointed by Century Insurance Co., Ltd. to serve as the company's general agent in Palau. In addition to the new Palau office, CIC does business in Saipan, Pohnpei and Chuuk, and plans to expand to the Marshall Islands and Guam, according to company officials. "We are very pleased to welcome former President Nakamura to our business family of agents and brokers," said CIC President David M. Sablan. "In addition to expanding our commitment to serve the region, we have launched an improvement program designed to meet global standards of service. We welcome the help of respected executives like President Nakamura," he said.

Aug. 30, 2002

CPA in final talks with US cargo firm

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is now on the last leg of its negotiations with a major U.S. cargo company for a weekly direct port call to Saipan, an attempt anticipated to bring in additional revenue to the CNMI economy. The CPA, led by Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, is now finalizing negotiations with Oakland-based U.S. cargo firm CSX Lines, a shipping company that provides domestic trades to and from the United States mainland, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Canada. In an interview, Salas disclosed that negotiations with CSX Guam/CNMI General Manager Mar Labrador are now on the final stage with minor arrangements to be made with the U.S. Coast Guard.

NMI eyes Japanese NGOs for aid

Meetings with nongovernmental organizations in Japan could pave the way for potential financial assistance, which the CNMI could take advantage of. This was stressed by Rep. William S. Torres, who is currently with Gov. Juan N. Babauta in his trip to Tokyo. He was interviewed yesterday in a telephone patch arranged by Special Assistant for Federal Relations Sonya Artero. Besides meeting with government officials, Torres said the CNMI delegation also met with several nongovernmental groups, which he said is extremely important.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to our beloved grandmother, Monica C. Lizama, shown here on the wheelchair at left. We wish you were here so we can celebrate your birthday. We truly love and miss you, Grandma Kokang. Greetings come from your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our son, baby brother, uncle, *niao, nino* and dad, Harry "Aguas" Ada, who celebrated his birthday on Aug. 27. We hope you caught *bula na guihan* on your special day. Love, from your Aguas and Chaketa familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our tiny toon, Hulkie Boy Ada, who is celebrating his 1st birthday today, Aug. 30. You are now graduating babyhood and entering toddlerhood, so enjoy the many thing you can do as a todd. We love you, baby. Greetings come from Dad and Mom and the Aguas and Chaketa familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Pacific

Cancer Research Center project focuses on youth tobacco use

The 2008 Guam Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile statistics show that three out of four Guam youth smoke and start smoking as early as middle school. A University of Guam Cancer Research Center research project aims to measure how exposure to tobacco by adults who smoke and environmental cues, including advertising, contribute to a greater likelihood of youth tobacco consumption.

Among Guam youth, tobacco consumption (including smoking and chewing tobacco with betel nut) is highest among Chamorro and other Micronesian youth. In an effort to identify and better understand reasons for tobacco use disparities among Chamorro and other Micronesian youth, thirty-three youth and tobacco control community volunteers successfully completed the "Photovoice and GIS Mapping/Tobacco Marketing at Point of Sales" training held in July 2011.

The University of Guam Cancer Research Center partnered with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Institute for Global Tobacco Control to train a group of youth and adult volunteers in community-based participatory research methods to test whether higher exposure to tobacco



Community members who completed the Photovoice and GIS Mapping/Tobacco Marketing at Point of Sales training for the University of Guam Cancer Research Center and the UH Cancer Research Center research project include: Front row seated from left to right: Richard Pajela, Kara Rubio, Dr. Annette David (UOG), Jelsa Camacho, and Erusa Perkin; Second row seated left to right: Ha'ane Balajadia, Elisa Guerrero, Grace Cuenco, Jessica Elf (Johns Hopkins University), Barbara Benavente, Audrey Benavente, Tristan Paulino, Angelina Mummert (UOG), and Austin Cepeda; third row standing from left to right: Elizabeth Guerrero, John Howard, Sara Namazi, Johnny Silbanuez, Paulette Saure, Remy Malig, April Joy Aguon, Laurence Alcairo, Roma Basa, and Dreama Asor; and fourth row standing from left to right: Keoki Kakigi, Nicolas Garrido, Christopher Fernandez, Naomi Blaz, Joshua Tobias, Ilesha Ibanez, Katrina Quinata, lumi Mori, and Chaunsi Cepeda.

advertising is one of the reasons for higher tobacco use rates among Chamorro and other

Micronesian youth.

The training was funded through a National Cancer

Institute community partnership initiative of the UOG Cancer Research Center. The

co-Principal Investigators for U54 Pilot Program 1 are Drs. Annette M. David, UOG, and Neal Palafox, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center.

The workshop consisted of 2 days of training in Photovoice and GIS Mapping, and 3 days of field data collection. Ms. Jessica Elf from John's Hopkins conducted hands-on training in the use of handheld computers for data gathering and the acquisition of Global Positioning System coordinates of tobacco retailers using portable GPS devices.

Once the data is processed, the community research group will examine and analyze the data and determine how best to utilize and disseminate the information. We anticipate that the data will provide good local evidence to guide recommendations regarding tobacco point-of-sale advertising in Guam. The GIS mapping data will be presented at the Guam Community Tobacco Control Research Summit on August 27, 2011, and the Photovoice results will be displayed as a photo exhibit at this forum.

For more information about this training or other trainings, contact the University of Guam Cancer Research Center at 735-2988/9. (UOG)

UOG Green intern accepted to international conference



Hadley

MANGILAO, Guam—Alison Hadley, a UOG Green intern and senior majoring in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, has been selected to attend the Asia-Pacific Youth Science Exchange Forum in Okinawa held by the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology and the University of the Ryukyus this September.

Hadley will attend the conference in Onna village, Okinawa on Sept. 23- 26, 2011, along with 19 other students from across the Pacific region. They will be joined by another 20 students from the Japan and Okinawa region. The theme of the conference is "Coral Reefs, Island Nations, and the Future of Coastal Communities in the 21st Century," and the students will give poster presentations about their considerations and concerns for their communities, in regards to the main topic.

"I have been fortunate enough to present at international conferences in New Zealand and Hawaii over the last year, so I feel that I know what to expect at the conference. I am preparing my presentation now and I look forward to networking with other students from across the Pacific and Asia," said Hadley.

The 40 students will spend their time at the conference presenting their own projects as well as attending presentations from panel experts on topics such as global climate change effects on reefs, acidification, storm frequency, and overfishing. The students will also join discussion groups regarding these particular issues and develop resolutions for such issues. They will also get the chance to visit the Churaumi Aquarium, the largest aquarium in Japan.

"I look forward to discussing these issues with other people my age from around the region. I hope to gain some much needed knowledge from the others and develop or learn interesting ways to alleviate these issues that Guam and the entire region face today," added Hadley. (UOG)

Grant backs study on how tropical fish adapt to toxins in their diet

Jason Biggs, PhD, a professor at the University of Guam Marine Lab, received a \$106,000 grant award from the National Science Foundation to study how tropical

fish, and specifically rabbitfish, adapt to toxins in their diet.

"Next-generation DNA sequencing technology will be used to characterize every single

gene expressed in the liver of rabbitfish (*sesyon*), a very culturally important food fish for Micronesia. These genes will be used to build state-of-the-art

technology that can measure the liver's responses to changing environments, and provide an opportunity to define diet-driven adaptive mechanisms in

tropical fish for the first time," said Biggs.

Marine organisms discharge complex toxic chemicals to defend themselves and to avoid being eaten. So when tropical fishes consume their prey they often consume these toxic chemicals along with their meal. It is important to understand how predators cope with poisons in their diet and how these systems parallel humans' ability to remove foreign chemicals, like drugs and pollutants, that are encountered in their everyday lives. Little is currently known about how fish tolerate their prey's biochemical defenses—especially in tropical marine communities, where these mechanisms can be assumed to be most complex.

"Increasing our understanding of how tropical fishes' cope with dietary toxins can contribute to resource-management efforts for minimizing impacts from harmful algal blooms, global climate change, and land-based pollution. For people who depend on the ocean for food, understanding why some natural products persist in marine food chains and how pollutants can affect a fish's ability to survive, are equivalent to understanding the size, safety, and sustainability of their most important resource," says Biggs.

For more information contact Jason Biggs at biggs.js@uogum.uog.edu. (UOG)



UOG CANCER RESEARCH CENTER SCHOLARS

On Aug. 26, 2011, four University of Guam graduate students who are pursuing their master's degrees in Micronesian Studies each received a scholarship covering tuition and fees for fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters. The scholarships are funded through the University of Guam's Cancer Research Center and each of the scholars is pursuing a research project on a cancer-related issue. Pictured from left are Todd Ames, Micronesian Studies advisor, Perinne Cruz, who is studying Guam's adolescents and their knowledge of the link between lifestyle and cancer; Melani Montano, who is studying how geographical information system tools are used for studies about environmental factors and their correlation to cancer; Marisha Artero, who will focus on the use of complementary and alternative medicine in cancer treatment; Angelica Okada, who is studying the social, emotional and financial effects of cancer on the members of the Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors; UOG senior vice president and cancer grant co-principal investigator Helen Whippy; and Gil Suguitan, program manager, Cancer Research Center. One of the objectives of the Cancer Research Center is to increase the number of minority scientists of Pacific Islander ancestry engaged in cancer research.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 205Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

U.S. ripped off for \$360 million, and that's not bad

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The Associated Press reported last week that a military task force looking into contracting in Afghanistan has concluded that \$360 million in U.S. combat support and reconstruction aid has wound up in the hands of criminals, corrupt politicians or the Taliban itself.

If it's "only" \$360 million, it's good news. That would represent only a little more than 1 percent of the \$31 billion in current contracts reviewed by the Pentagon's "Task Force 2010." If you can do business in Afghanistan and see only 1 percent of your money raked off by the bad guys ("malign actors," the military calls them), you're doing pretty well.

Bribery is a way of life in Afghanistan, a built-in cost of doing business, and today's trusted warlord may be tomorrow's malign actor. Nor is it just warlords and power brokers who cash in. Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies reported last year that in Afghanistan, "the military and police have long taken bribes or charged illegal fees. Like at least two-thirds of the countries in the world, this long has been the way the Afghan government and economy operate."

Task Force 2010 was formed by Gen. David H. Petraeus, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan before he was appointed to head the CIA. Part of its job was to try to separate the bribes paid to malign actors with those paid to benign actors. In Afghanistan, the trick is to make sure you're not bribing the wrong people.

The Task Force estimates that a very small share of the \$360 million paid to malign actors went to the people who actually are fighting U.S. forces. The Taliban doesn't actually need much money; it is made up of guerrilla fighters who fight close to home. The Pentagon estimates that it costs the United States about \$500,000 a year to keep a soldier or Marine in the field; other estimates are twice that high. A rough estimate is that it costs the Taliban about \$2,600 a year for each fighter.

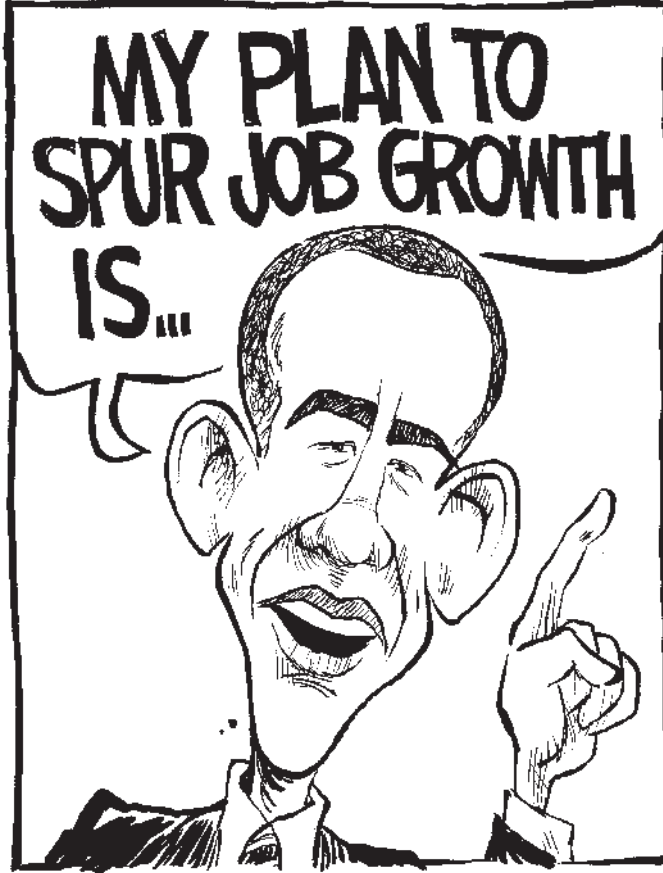
The high cost of keeping a U.S. soldier armed and supplied is a big reason "malign actors" were able to rip off U.S. taxpayers for \$360 million. The logistics of moving fuel, ammunition, food, water and other supplies to 96,000 troops scattered throughout a heavily mountainous nation are enormously difficult.

The military these days outsources most of its logistics. In Iraq, Halliburton was the prime contractor; it will be recalled that there were some problems with those contracts.

In Afghanistan, the United States decided to try to promote local businesses and gave a big transportation contract to something called Host Nation Trucking. Host Nation hired eight subcontractors. They, in turn, hired dozens of subcontractors. Task Force 2010 reports that about half of the \$360 million that was spent on bad actors went to people working under, or demanding bribes from, the Host Nation Trucking contract.

A new trucking contract worth nearly \$1 billion was signed early this month. It did not include Host Nation's subcontractors. Even so, it can be assumed that some of that billion dollars will be paid in bribes, in some cases to people who don't like us.

That's the way it works there. We should have known that going in. Instead, we're figuring it out only on the way out.



Eco-democracy 101: Wake-up calls

We always sense the passion of our body, heart and soul, and the manifestation of our profound humanness. Mine is in *The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy*, a four-year writing output from members of the Symposium for Realistic Living. We hope to get it into book form in the hands of those interested by December of this year.

The thinking is broken into four parts. The first part names 10 wake-up calls for today's civilized sleepers.

Of the 10, the first is a no-brainer: the ecological crisis. The *Titanic* is sinking and many are still squabbling over the furniture arrangement. Planet Eaarth is in peril. Our recent experience of the Midwest's unusual heat wave and East Coast's earthquake is shaking familiar patterns, not to mention Irene's incredible onslaught of the Caribbean and the eastern seaboard. Half of us deny climate warming.

Undermining the democratic process is a second point. PH's Ferdinand Marcos wrote, "Today's revolution is democracy," and proceeded to prove it by its negation, resulting in a People Power uprising, replicated a few times since. The American Revolution is two centuries old, but we have allowed Wall Street to undermine the voice of Main Street.

Industrialization empowered repetitive actions to meet basic survival needs, and with the discovery of oil, productivity replaced mining nutrients from Nature. But the gift of the fossil-fuel economy became a curse. Our third wake-up call points to dysfunctional systems that created an oligarchy of power, undermined the democratic impulse birthed by *egalité*, *égalité*, *fraternité*, and carbon-scarred the planet and abused our psyches with the devastations of war, only so that access to oil is available to a few.

Malthus' observed that population grows exponentially while increase in food production stays, and this is used to justify "dog eat dog" behavior and tactics. Despicable as this fourth reality is, the fact remains that the global population increased three-fold in my lifetime. Considerable stress is exerted on the commons of our global resource.

We've awakened to the reality that the context (images) we create to rehearse our story determines our behavior and how we perceive our existence's meaning. From 30,000 BCE to about 6000 BCE, the all-embracing image of the matriarchal goddesses guided humankind's culture and religion, but the next six millennia saw the rise of our fifth wake up call, patriarchy taking a divisive center stage to the detriment of what ancient China identified as "women holding half of the sky." A culture of conquest and domination characterizes American empire, causing the Eaarth to falter more than it flourishes. Patriarchy extends from Timor to Timbuktu, Bali to Boston, and Sydney to Tripoli, perceiving feminine resurgence as a vengeful tigress to a purring meow, males finding themselves emasculated by the wayside. Even male aggressive pursuit of truth, once admired and necessary, is seen more for its bullying than its lucidity. Counterpro-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



ductive patriarchy is being crunched under the dancing soles of barefooted Jane, Li, Olga, and Maria.

The curse of racism marks the sixth area of enduring malaise. The MLK memorial park in Washington celebrates the man but the breakthrough of a person of color in the nation's capital only aggravates Amerika's disdain for the darker race like the man in the White House. Admittedly, Amerika has no monopoly on racism. I was once told in an interview for an English teaching position in China that the institution was looking for a native speaker, and by that was meant color of one's skin. Norway intrudes into our complacency.

Post-WWII saw serious critique on the theistic metaphor of our journey to profound humanness, and the installation of patriarchy is transcendently blessed by grandiose theocracy, our seventh point. Now the death throes of second-storey divinity is celebrated with deliberate intensity in the awesome clouds of our unknowing, it also triggered a huge industry of illusions, delusions, and glorified architectures of mirages. Pronouncing the extreme unction on theocracy is a much-needed rite in recapturing the relevance of our authentic chants to live at the center of the real.

War makes the eighth point and this comes close to home since Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI exist by virtue of their strategic value to the military machine. But if more than half of our national assets go into the global network of the Pentagon and the expenditure on promoting fear and homeland insecurities, the tyranny of phantom wealth, a ninth concern, is the financial market attached to the global network of the military-industrial complex.

The horror of poverty caps our list of 10. In a world rich with foliage, flora, and fauna, we have inequity in resource access; added petroleum-based synthetic chemicals in the food chain upset our metabolism and affect neurons. I look petite in China but 15 percent of their young are catching up with mainland U.S. obesity, now pegged at 50 percent. The rest of the world, rich in natural resource, is unable to feed its young. Worst, anxiety levels remain at an all-time high.

Eco-crisis denied, democracy undermined, fossil-fuel economy corrupted, population plight blighted, bullying patriarchy's drag, racism's curse, theocracy's false hopes, war's obsolescence, phantom wealth's deception, and dehumanizing poverty, make the list. Wake up, world!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor**Enough with career politicians!**

Career politicians have done more than enough damage! The passing of HLB 17-44, the casino bill, was done in such a questionable, deceptive, disrespectful, and scandalous way. It is outright wrong in so many levels!

Casino debate aside, let the people decide! Why were they so adamant in passing this local bill instead of letting the people's voices be heard? Do you view your constituents in such inferiority that we are unable to decide for ourselves? Yep, like many instances before, more money that we don't have will end up being used in litigation that could have been prevented if things were just done the right way and in line with what the people deserve.

A lawmaker was quoted as saying, "casino is the only way." The only way to what? For the select few to one way or another personally gain while the people stand and watch their island continue to deteriorate? As if our reputation hasn't been tainted enough by the garment industry, labor controversies, prostitution rings, connection to Washington D.C. political corruption, etc.,...and now casinos?! We talk about how tourism is our most important industry and we'll all be doomed as the visitor numbers drop. Well, it doesn't seem like our government is all that concerned. Our tourist attractions are in such disrepair that some of them actually do more harm than good in terms of an "attraction."

I'd like to list a few government savings and revenue generating ideas that have been tossed around with little or no action at all from our legislators:

Government savings:

1. Pass legislation to minimize the number of House and Senate members (and better yet, create a unicameral legislature) before the next election.
2. Eliminate the Municipal Council and distribute their duties to the Mayor's Office and various central department agencies.
3. Do not renew the many government leases that house offices in private buildings. There are many abandoned government buildings around the island that could be used. Why haven't ARRA funds been used for this? We are unnecessarily paying rent! While ugly

Re: Pellegrino's 'Growth comes from within not, without'

I am in agreement with Tony's assertive sentiment on growth and how easily, through the years, we've ignored the traditional strength of these isles in farming and fishing. We aspire for glitz and glamour as to even brave violating the wise counsel of our elderly who warned, "*Muñga mañaluda ni ti tihongmu*" or don't claim credit or accolades in what isn't yours.

Had we humbly did our due diligence on a fully thought-out socio-economic plan leaving room for refinement, we would have had the opportunity for refinement when the global economic recession hit our shores. That we had nothing to fall back on forces the helter-skelter modus operandi that we find ourselves in today. We never had a plan and so how could you reasonably draw answers to a nonexistent plan? Guam did this and it is well on its way to raking in more revenues as ours head deeper south.

If casino is really a lucrative industry, then the likes of Addelsen, Qwynn, and Ho would have been here preparing the grounds to devour any and all opportunities. Instead, they headed to Singapore and have done their homework on which venue is ripe for casino. Japan is their next target, not the CNMI. Why? Their research show the existence of some 2.6 million wealthy Japanese who have the disposable income to use as a form of entertainment. How many wealthy folks are in the CNMI?

It seems we've adopted and adapted to what I call the "Madame X" syndrome where we refuse to live with what we have. For as long as we ignore and neglect the development of what we have as gold in the ground and the sea, we'd be doomed to aspiring for something that is literally unsustainable like casino. Do we continue the scholarship program so our children could return and work in this suspect industry?

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

government buildings scar the "tropical paradise" image we so heavily depend on.

4. Enforce strict rules in the use of government vehicles to save gas money. Far too many government vehicles are being used for personal matters.

5. Performance review to potentially replace incompetent workers in charge of spending the *millions* in *unused* CIP and ARRA funds!

6. Do I need to bring up the issue of leased government vehicles by our elected officials? How about the people paying for the governor's huge power bill? If a tiny three-bedroom house is paying a \$300-plus power/water bill, can you imagine how much we're paying for the governor's mansion? It's not a secret that the governor is a pretty wealthy man. If his main reason for becoming governor was to "help the people," why is he leeching off of us? He should give up his salary and perks until he has successfully reeled us out of this economic crisis.

Revenue Generation:

1. Develop a viable agricultural industry to export millions of dollars worth of goods to Guam and beyond.
2. Invest \$600,000, which is needed to maintain administrative duties required for the national food stamp program. We need to help feed our people in need, now! Taxes will be paid and an increase in spending will pay for that \$600,000 and then some! Most

A vision for the CNMI!

All of us know that when our families take a vacation to travel to some new place we always start by making a plan and creating a vision of what it is we want it to be like when we get there. This plan is called many things. It can be a vision, idea, dream, plan, revelation, perception, imagination, etc. We never start a trip or venture without a plan or vision so we can assure ourselves that when we arrive it is where we wanted to be!

A group of about 25 diverse, committed people who love these islands and its people have been meeting for over the last two years to try to pull together a vision for our islands, with a specific focus on Saipan as our first step. These people represent a cross section of Saipan that is consistent with the ethnicity of the population and across the economy. There were men and women who are: professionals, farmers, fisherman, retirees, teachers, doctors, legislators, and business people. The common wish of all these people was to create a VISION for an ideal place where we all would want to live. The vision is still a work in progress, the group needs to add more members to expand and include all the members of our community

There is no leader for this group, all the people participated on an equal bases and made contributions directly to the group. People volunteered to do task but the "leader" was "everyone in the group"; no leader ran the group. We all listened to the inputs of all the group members and several acted as recorders to capture the vision statements coming from all the members. I am only one of the group members. The ideas for the vision come from all the group members. The following vision statements come from this small group of people and are now given to the community to think about. The question becomes: "Would you like to live in a community that had a vision to guide it to a place that you would like to live?" It is a preliminary vision, and cannot be completed until the community at large also makes their contributions.

After you read the "Visions" below you can respond in letters to the editor or make comments. We will include your ideas too. Please make your input positive, we are not interested in hearing from people who want to destroy, we are only interested in those that want to build a better place to live.

Dreams can come true for all that live here. Our "VISION" will be realized when:

- *Physically the infrastructure and environment of our island and*

Our time will come

"It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."—Robert F. Kennedy

My friends, do not give up hope. This was only the beginning. Those few who stood against this bill on Capital Hill on Friday have begun the long process of rehabilitating the minds of the people of the Commonwealth. They have shown that it is OK to stand up and protest against our government. Yes, the Legislature still passed the casino bill, but do not for one second think that the protest was a failure.

importantly of all, many families can sleep at night not worrying about going hungry!

3. Again, these aren't new! These are things that have been tossed around for a while now, but unfortunately, our legislators and administration have other more pressing issues to deal with: like casinos and trips around the world—at our expense!

And as a suggestion, it is only right for our legislative and executive "leaders" to be held responsible for their inaction and reckless ways of running our government. Although long overdue, I ask that the Legislature hold town hall meetings to meet with their constituents and hear us out. We have so many intelligent minds in this community, but our elected officials refuse to listen.

I call on all "career politicians" to step down immediately and make way for the new generation to pave the path to our future. You've had your turn. You did such a terrible job. Thanks, but no thanks. Your old-fashioned way of conducting business is hurting our community. Basic necessities like health care (CHC) and electricity (CUC) continue to be less than acceptable and closer to non-existent. Look around you... we've had enough! Give us a chance to fix all the wrongs and hopefully save the CNMI from destruction.

Ron Muña
Koblerville, Saipan

- homes will fit all the needs of the people.*
- *The umbrella of our individual dreams will expand to be understood by all of our people.*
- *An umbrella for information and news will be evenly shared throughout the islands using the most advanced technology tools.*
- *Excellence of education for our youth with a focus on freedom for the benefit of the common good is assured by our government.*
- *The economy has grown to allow food, power, and water to be plentiful and pure, with the infrastructure to support the growth demanded.*
- *The economics of our islands will be based on the free enterprise system.*
- *The infrastructure is useful, enjoyable and sustainable.*
- *Changes will have happened that impact our social values to a healthy lifestyle that is supported by outstanding healthcare*
- *Our government will provide safe environments for the people and a justice system of excellence that will eliminate fear and provide equality for all people.*
- *Politics will not be part of our justice system; "the rule of law" will dominate.*
- *The people in government and political system will be based on the concept "best to serve." Openness, honesty and fiduciary responsibility will be considered to be a right and part of the public trust.*
- *Socially, our people will have realized the need to be a larger village, sharing and helping each other to achieve a common dream.*
- *Society will change to encourage engagement of all people in free and fair debate.*
- *Our society will be friendly to "outsiders" and human diversity celebrated by all that meet here.*
- *Society will control government, not vice versa. This is the dream of all our people*

The "Vision" will be recognized when we see it! Now that we have a start toward a vision how do we move forward to accomplish our dream?

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

The protest was a success, if for one reason only: we have planted a seed in the minds of everyone on Saipan...we need only to continuously water that seed and give it enough sunlight to grow, and soon, very soon, we shall have our revolution that we so desperately need. Keep the hope alive. We will succeed.

Mark my words, we will overcome the corruption of our government. One way or another, we will rid the CNMI of the plague that is our current administration and our current legislators and we will bring forth a new epoch of success and prosperity for our islands.






Biba CNMI.

Kelvin Rodeo
Glendale, CA

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 77

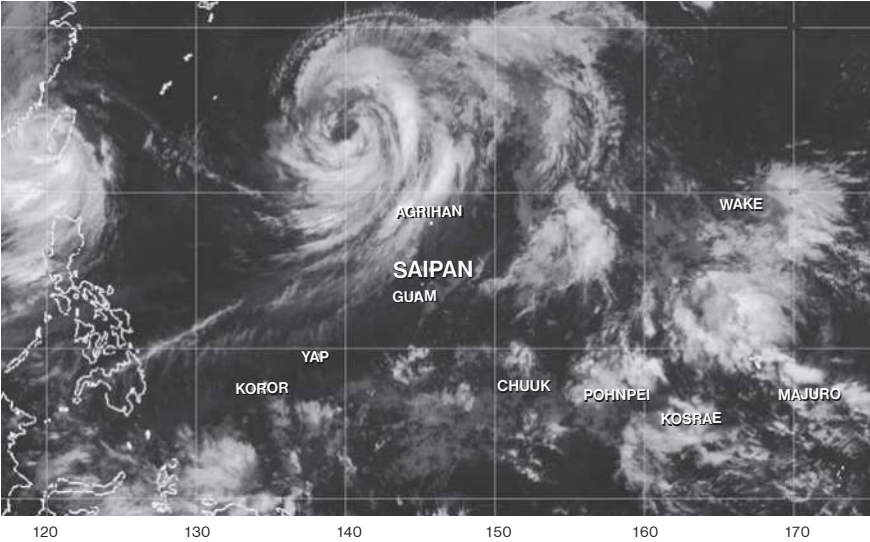
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 56
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 95 ▼ 85
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
New York	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 61
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 93 ▼ 76
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 49
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 73
Rome	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 67
Salem	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 57
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 66

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
7:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
2:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
8:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Talas (15W) is centered southwest of Iwo Jima at 24N140E. Talas is nearly stationary with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of a line from 18N136E to 17N140E to 20N146E. For more information on Tropical Storm Talas, refer to advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and bulletins issued by JTWC under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Convergent trades south of Koror are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of a line from 5N130E to 7N139E. A weak circulation is centered south of Minami Tori Shima at 20N155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present east of the Marianas within 200 miles of 17N155E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 4N159E to 10N163E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located near Kosrae and Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 7N154E to 11N159E to 5N166E to 1N160E back to 7N154E. The leading edge of a trade-wind surge is triggering scattered showers near Kwajalein and Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 10N167E to 6N174E to 6N180. Upper-level divergence and trade-wind convergence are coupling to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Wake Island and the northern Marshall Islands between 10N and 20N from 162E to 171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:49 AM	7:12 PM
Wednesday	7:49 AM	7:59 PM
Thursday	8:49 AM	8:47 PM
Friday	9:51 AM	9:38 PM
Saturday	10:52 AM	10:32 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C09314 2:20am 2:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C09315 5:30am 6:00am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C09315 4:25am 5:00am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C09314 3:20am 3:55am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C09317 4:25am 5:15am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C09315 4:25am 6:00am 1, 5 via ROP C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 5K386 5:50pm 6:40pm 4 C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C09314 2:20am 3:55am 1, 5 via ROP C09316 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 5K387 6:30am 7:20am 3, 4, 7 C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) 5K212 8:20am 10:55am 1, 3, 4, 5, 7	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN 5K213 11:55am 4:25pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:05pm 12:45am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:05am 8:30am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/191 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 9:55pm Daily via NRT C09313/183 7:55am 8:40pm 3, 6 via GUM C09603/183 3:05pm 8:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM C09603/193 3:05pm 10:10pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL172/288 7:45am 12:35am+1 Daily via NRT OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0190/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 3, 6 via GUM C0192/9596 9:55pm 7:25am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:25am 5, via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am 1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/179 3:05pm 9:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:25am+1 5 via GUM C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:50am+1 1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Travelers wait for flights to resume after Irene

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Many travelers heading to and from the East Coast still face days of delays even as airlines start flying again Monday at major airports that closed for Tropical Storm Irene.

More than 11,000 flights were canceled nationwide over the weekend, and hundreds more will be scrubbed Monday morning, a flight-tracking service said.

There's no easy way to squeeze all those displaced passengers onto scheduled flights, especially if airports around New York—the nation's busiest airspace—encounter delays reopening Monday. And ground transport alternatives remain limited, with bus and train service disrupted into Monday as well along the East Coast.

■■■
WASHINGTON (AP)—Tropical Storm Irene's trek up the East Coast caused less damage than many had

feared, a bit of reassuring news for a fragile economy.

Insured damages from the storm will likely range between \$2 billion and \$3 billion, and total losses will likely be about \$7 billion, according to preliminary estimates from Kinetic Analysis Corp., a consulting firm.

Both figures are lower than had been expected, suggesting that the storm poses little threat to the nation's \$14 trillion economy. Some economists said that, as with past hurricanes and earthquakes, the recovery could end up boosting growth in the coming months. Demand for building repairs might help the depressed construction industry, for example.

"Irene left several places with black eyes, but it doesn't seem to have delivered an economic knockout," said Ryan Sweet, an economist at Moody's Analytics.

■■■
Airlines won't say how many



In this Sept. 4, 2005 file photo, two cars sit on top of a home surrounded by floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina, in New Orleans.

passengers have been grounded since Irene came ashore in North Carolina on Saturday.

FlightAware, which tracks cancellations, put the total around 650,000, noting that many of the 11,800-plus flights canceled so far were on regional airlines that use small planes. Some travel experts suggested much larger numbers—1 million or more.

Finding open seats will be especially difficult this week because

it's the last gasp of the summer vacation season. "We're coming into the Labor Day holiday weekend, so a lot of those flights are already full," said Todd Lehmacher, a spokesman for US Airways.

Airlines resumed flights Sunday at airports around Washington, Philadelphia and Richmond, Va. But the longer closure of the New York area's Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark, N.J., airports means travel

delays will continue rippling across the country.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the three airports, said late Sunday that Kennedy and Newark would open to arriving flights at 6 a.m. Monday, with departures beginning at noon. LaGuardia was to reopen at 7 a.m.

New York City officials said they weren't sure Sunday evening when mass transit would be fully restored after shutting down Saturday, though some local bus service has resumed. The subways remained closed, and downed trees and high water still covered commuter train tracks across the region. Airline officials said those disruptions would affect their ability to get back into gear.

"It's really dependent upon mass transit and the airport being ready to support the start-up," JetBlue CEO Dave Barger told NBC.

Long-distance bus and train companies also saw lingering effects from Irene, which was

downgraded early Sunday from a hurricane to a tropical storm as high winds ebbed.

Greyhound scrubbed bus travel between Richmond, Va., and Boston all weekend. A spokeswoman said buses would begin to roll north out of Richmond Monday morning and the company hoped to be running in New York by midday.

Amtrak said trains from New York to Florida will be canceled Monday, as will the car train between Lorton, Va., and Sanford, Fla. Some lines in North Carolina and Florida will be open.

Amtrak said in a statement Sunday evening that many routes south of Philadelphia will resume operation, while it canceled many trains between New York and points north. The railroad said separately that its inspections are revealing problems with wiring and signals, as well as trees blocking the tracks. Passengers with paid tickets on canceled trains can rebook or receive refunds by calling 800-872-7245 or visiting Amtrak.com.

Regarding employee visas: What should I be doing now?

Question: I have a small business with nine non-U.S. citizen workers. I have been waiting patiently for the Transitional Worker regulations to come out, but it's getting very close to the Nov. 28 deadline for the start of the CW visa program. What can I do to prepare for this?

I can sympathize with you. I think we have all been waiting for these regulations and just want them released so we can figure out what we need to do. Let me say first that I am not an authority on immigration law and visa requirements. So, let's look at it from a human resource and business perspective.

You're right. Time is running out. All CNMI issued umbrella and other entry permits will expire on Nov. 27. On Nov. 28 all non-U.S. citizen employees need to be either on, or in the process of approval for, either a CW1 visa or another Immigration & Naturalization Act (INA) classification, such as an H1-B visa. I spoke recently with an attorney friend who is an immigration law expert and she said that she does not anticipate any grace period for submission of petitions after Nov. 27.

The Interim Rule establishing the CNMI Transitional Worker Classification [8 CFR 214.2(w)(4)] states:

"DHS is providing in this rule that ... aliens may be classified as CW-1 non-immigrants if, during the transition period, the alien: ... (4) if present in the CNMI, is lawfully present in the CNMI."

It goes on to say:

"DHS has determined that requiring lawful status in the CNMI as a prerequisite for CW-1 eligibility is the most efficient means to begin the congressionally-mandated drawdown of transitional workers to zero by the end of the transition period."

Those statements originally referred to lawful CNMI immigration status through CNMI permits on Nov. 28, 2009, and through the expiration of those permits beyond that date. However, the CNMI instituted the Umbrella Permit System which extended the lawful status period until Nov. 27, 2011 for those who obtained umbrella permits. However, that status ends this upcoming Nov. 27. If my reading of the Interim Rule is correct, on Nov. 28 those non-U.S. citizen workers who do not have a U.S. immigration status or a petition pending will no longer be in a lawful status and may no longer be eligible to file a petition. Of course, the regulations have not been released yet and, because of the delay, the regulations MIGHT provide an extension beyond Nov. 27, BUT—I don't think I would bet my business on it.

So—what should you be doing now?

1. Read and understand the Interim Rule establishing the CNMI Transitional Worker Classification that was released on Oct. 27, 2009, and then recalled due to the court challenge. My more knowledgeable friend doesn't think the soon-to-be-released regulations will vary significantly.

2. Assess your business needs and your staffing and determine which of your non-U.S. citizen employees you will petition for CW-1 status or an H1-B visa. Have the courtesy to inform those that you will not petition so that they can try to find another sponsor.

3. Determine which of the employees you plan on petitioning for a H1-B visa and who can be petitioned for the CW-1 visa. Again, the Interim Rule states:

"This rule makes aliens eligible for CW-1 status only if they are ineligible for nonimmigrant classification based upon employment activities described in section 101(a)(15) of the INA. Such nonimmigrant classifications may include, but are not limited to, a specialty occupation described in section 214(i) of the Act."

In other words, if the job and the worker qualify for an H1-B, or other employment based status, the worker will not be approved for a CW-1 visa.

4. Gather the information that you will need to file petitions for the H1-B and CW-1 visas. The H1-B visa requirements are much more complex than the CW-1, take much longer to acquire the requirements for submission, and cost significantly more. Another friend who has processed H1-B visas says that it takes 4-6 weeks to obtain the education equivalency certification. Do not put the H1-B visas off to the last moment. Research the requirements and get started. Luckily, only a few specialized jobs require a H1-B visa.

The stated time to complete the I-129CW form for the CW-1 visa is three hours. I would imagine that is if you have all of the information ready. The I-129CW form has not been released yet, so you can't start filling it out, but you can review the existing I-129 form, which should be similar, and get your information and documents ready. You can put all of your workers in one occupational category on one I-129CW form and only have to pay one \$320 fee for the form, but the \$150 education funding fee is required for each worker petitioned. These fees are paid by the employer. The employee may be required to pay the \$80 biometric fee. The employee may also be required to pay for the processing of CW-2 status for spouses and children under 18. Again go to the Interim Rule to review the nine occupational categories and to find out what information and documents will be needed for the CW-1 petition.

5. Decide whether you are going to process the H1-B and CW-1 visas yourself or seek the assistance of an attorney.

6. As part of the submissions for both the H1-B and CW-1 visas, you must fairly consider all qualified U.S. citizens who apply to fill the positions. The Interim Rule states: "this rule further establishes that eligible employers must consider all available U.S. workers for positions being filled by CW-1 workers; offer terms and conditions of employment which are consistent with the nature of the occupation, activity, and industry in the CNMI." The U.S. Department of

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.



Labor provides guidance for providing notification of the intent to petition a non-U.S. citizen on a for H1-B visas:

There is a notice requirement. The employer must inform U.S. workers of the intent to hire a foreign worker by providing notice of the filing of the LCA (Labor Condition Application) to the bargaining representative if there is one, or, if there is no bargaining representative, by posting notice of filing in two conspicuous locations at the employer's establishments, or by providing electronic notice. The notice must be provided on or within the 30-day period before the date that the labor condition application is submitted to DOL. (<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/guide/h1b.htm>)

The posting period for a H1-B visa is 10 days within the 30 days prior to submission of the LCA. Electronic notice can be by whatever electronic means the employer normally communicates with its employees (e.g., e-mail, bulletin board, and home Web page). The means of notification for the intent to hire workers on a CW-1 visa is not known yet, but may require posting on the CNMI DOL website.

7. Attend the upcoming SHRM, SCC and USCIS meetings to obtain the latest information on the regulation.

There are some unstated "ifs" in this article because the regulations are not yet out. There is also much not covered here. However, I think it is a fair answer to your question and reasonable guidance as to what you should be doing right now. With luck, the regulation will be out shortly and you can compare the steps I have provided, and the assumptions made, with the regulation and adjust them accordingly.

Yes—the revised regulation may differ from the old one. However, you can't keep putting this off waiting for the new regulation to be released. I think it is fair to say that, with less than three months to go, if you haven't at least started working on this, it's certainly time to do so.

(Follow this link for the Interim Rule: <http://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/FR/HTML/FR/0-0-0-1/0-0-0-186558/0-0-0-196236/0-0-0-197368.html>)

Nation

Irene: Wet, deadly and expensive, but no monster

NEW YORK (AP)—Stripped of hurricane rank, Tropical Storm Irene spent the last of its fury Sunday, leaving treacherous flooding and millions without power—but an unfazed New York and relief that it was nothing like the nightmare authorities feared.

Slowly, the East Coast surveyed the damage—up to \$7 billion by one private estimate. The center of Irene crossed into Canada late Sunday, but for many the danger had not passed.

Rivers and creeks turned into raging torrents tumbling with limbs and parts of buildings in northern New England and upstate New York. Flooding was widespread in Vermont, and hundreds of people were told to leave the capital, Montpelier, which could get flooded twice: once by Irene and once by a utility trying to save an overwhelmed dam.

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—With Irene gone, cleanup crews began pumping water out of soggy subway tunnels, fixing traffic lights in the nation's capital and clearing debris from hundreds of roads as the East Coast readied for the workweek. While early indications were that the damage was not as bad as feared, it will be days before things get back to normal in many places.

More than 4 million homes and businesses along the coast still did not have power Sunday. Roads were impassable because of high water, fallen trees and downed power lines. And while the full extent of the damage was not known, early estimates put it in the billions of dollars.

Up and down the coast, the images were the same: Siding peeled from houses; boats torn from moorings and thrown ashore; massive trees ripped from the ground; and cars submerged beneath flood waters. In the hardest-hit areas, pockets of about 20 homes were destroyed.

Meanwhile, the nation's most populous region looked to a new week and the arduous process of getting back to normal.

New York lifted its evacuation order for 370,000 people and said subway service, shut down for the first time by a natural disaster, will be partially restored Monday, though it warned riders to expect long lines and long waits. Philadelphia restarted its trains and buses.

"All in all," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, "we are in pretty good shape."

At least 21 people died in the storm, most of them when trees crashed through roofs or onto cars.

The main New York power company, Consolidated Edison,



A Fairfield Beach Road home is submerged in Pine Creek in Fairfield, Conn. as treacherous weather caused by Tropical Storm Irene came through the area on Sunday Aug. 28, 2011.

didn't have to go through with a plan to cut electricity to lower Manhattan to protect its equipment. Engineers had worried that salty seawater would damage the wiring.

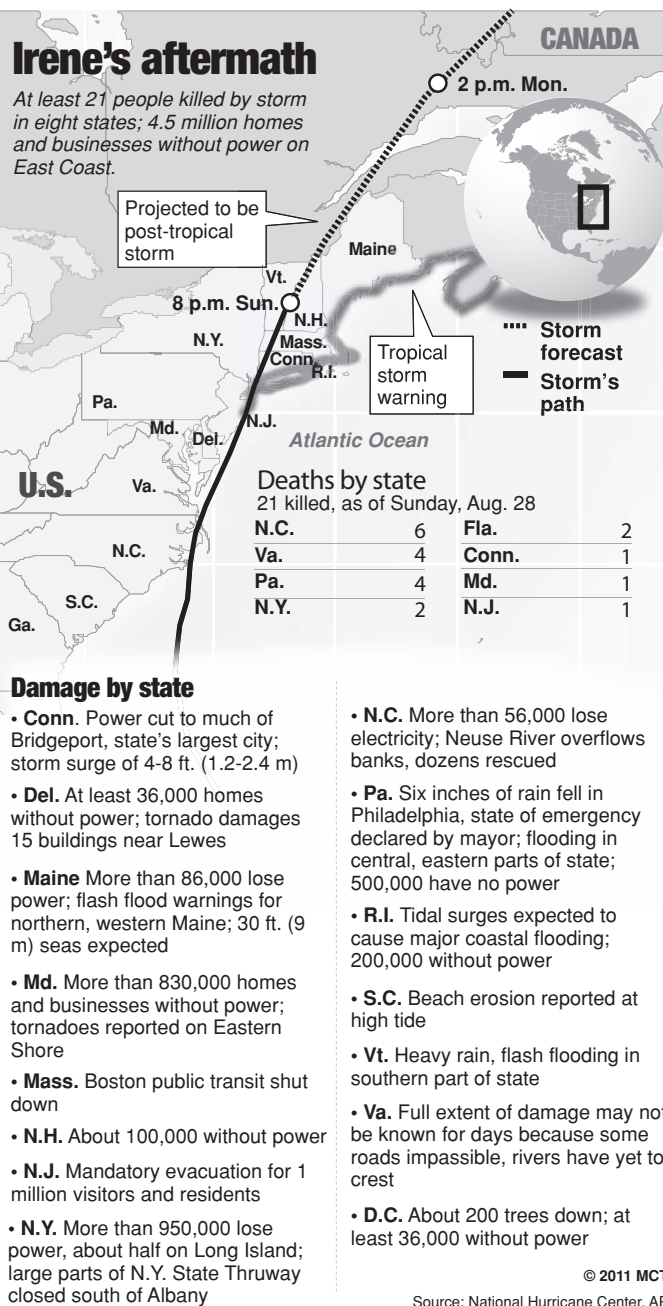
And two pillars of the neighborhood came through the storm just fine: The New York Stock Exchange said it would be open for business on Monday, and the Sept. 11 memorial at the World Trade Center site didn't lose a single tree.

The center of Irene passed over Central Park at midmorning with the storm packing 65 mph winds. By late Sunday, it was down to 50 mph. Only tropical storm warnings for the south coast of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia remained in effect late Sunday, and those were expected to be lifted early Monday.

"Just another storm," said Scott Beller, who was at a Lowe's hardware store in the Long Island hamlet of Centereach, looking for a generator because his power was out.

The Northeast was spared the urban nightmare some had worried about—crippled infrastructure, stranded people and windows blown out of skyscrapers. Early assessments showed "it wasn't as bad as we thought it would be," New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said.

Later in the day, the extent of the damage became clearer. Flood waters were rising across New Jersey, closing side streets and major highways including the New Jersey Turnpike and Interstate 295. In Essex County, authorities used a five-ton truck to ferry people away from their homes as the Passaic River neared



its expected crest Sunday night.

Twenty homes on Long Island Sound in Connecticut were destroyed by churning surf. The torrential rain chased hundreds of people in upstate New York

Wilmington, Vt., was flooded, but nobody could get to it because both state roads leading there were underwater.

"This is the worst I've ever seen in Vermont," said Mike O'Neil, the state emergency management director.

Rivers roared in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In the Hudson Valley town of New Paltz, N.Y., so many people were gathering to watch a rising river that authorities banned alcohol sales and ordered people inside. And in Rhode Island, which has a geography thick with bays, inlets and shoreline, authorities were worried about coastal flooding at evening high tide.

Chris Fogarty, director of the Canadian Hurricane Centre, warned of flooding and wind damage in eastern Canada and said the heaviest rainfall was expected in Quebec, where about 250,000 homes were without power.

The entire Northeast has been drenched this summer with what has seemed like relentless rain, saturating the ground and raising the risk of flooding, even after the storm passes altogether.

The storm system knocked out power for 4 1/2 million people along the Eastern Seaboard. Power companies were picking through uprooted trees and reconnecting lines in the South and had restored electricity to hundreds of thousands of people by Sunday afternoon.

Under its first hurricane warning in a quarter-century, New York took extraordinary precautions. There were sandbags on Wall Street, tarps over subway grates and plywood on

storefront windows.

The subway stopped rolling. Broadway and baseball were canceled.

With the worst of the storm over, hurricane experts assessed the preparations and concluded that, far from hyping the danger, authorities had done the right thing by being cautious.

Max Mayfield, former director of the National Hurricane Center, called it a textbook case.

"They knew they had to get people out early," he said. "I think absolutely lives were saved."

Mayfield credited government officials—but also the meteorologists. Days before the storm ever touched American land, forecast models showed it passing more or less across New York City.

"I think the forecast itself was very good, and I think the preparations were also good," said Keith Seitter, director of the American Meteorological Society. "If this exact same storm had happened without the preparations that everyone had taken, there would have been pretty severe consequences."

In the storm's wake, hundreds of thousands of passengers still had to get where they were going. Airlines said about 9,000 flights were canceled.

Officials said the three major New York-area airports will resume most flights Monday morning. Philadelphia International Airport reopened Sunday afternoon, and flights resumed around Washington, which took a glancing blow from the storm.

In the South, authorities still were not sure how much damage had been done. North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue said some parts of her state were unreachable. TV footage showed downed trees, toppled utility poles and power lines and mangled awnings.

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell had initially warned that Irene could be a "catastrophic" monster with record storm surges of up to 8 feet. But the mayor of Virginia Beach, Va., suggested on Twitter that the damage was not as bad as feared, as did the mayor of Ocean City, Md.

One of two nuclear reactors at Calvert Cliffs, Md., automatically went offline because of high winds. Constellation Energy Nuclear Group said the plant was safe.

In New York, some cabs were up to their wheel wells in water, and water rushed over a marina near the New York Mercantile Exchange, where gold and oil are traded. But the flooding was not extensive.

"Whether we dodged a bullet or you look at it and said, 'God smiled on us,' the bottom line is, I'm happy to report, there do not appear to be any deaths attributable to the storm," Bloomberg said.

Asia

Finance minister to be Japan's next prime minister

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's ruling party elected Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda as its new chief Monday, paving the way for him to be the next prime minister and inherit the daunting task of recovering from the huge tsunami and nuclear crisis.

Noda, 54, is known as a fiscal conservative and has lately been battling a sluggish economy, bulging national debt and the yen's record surge, which hurts Japan's exporters by making their products more expensive overseas.

As prime minister—Japan's sixth in five years—he will have to broaden his scope to deal with the continuing reconstruction from the March 11 quake and tsunami along the northeastern coast and the 100,000 people who remain dislocated because of radiation leaking from a tsunami-damaged nuclear plant.

"Let us sweat together for the sake of the people," he said after the vote. "This is my heartfelt wish."

Noda replaces Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who resigned after nearly 15 months in office plagued by public discontent



Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda votes for the ruling party leadership during a voting by the Democratic Party of Japan lawmakers in Tokyo Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.

over political infighting and his administration's handling of the disasters.

Noda defeated Trade Minister Banri Kaieda—who was backed by an influential behind-the-scenes party kingpin—in a run-off election 215-177 among ruling party members of parliament after none of the initial five candidates won a majority in the first round. Noda will go on to become prime minister because the Democrats control the more powerful lower house of parliament.

After the vote, Noda said the three most pressing challenges facing the nations are recovering from the tsunami, bringing to a close the nuclear crisis and dealing with the strengthening of the yen and the deflationary pressure it has put on Japan's economy.

Noda came from behind to win the run-off, getting 102 votes in the first round to Kaieda's 143. The result could be seen as a slap against Ichizo Ozawa, a scandal-tainted party powerbroker who threw his support behind Kaieda.

Ozawa, a 69-year-old veter-

an who began in the long-ruling and now opposition Liberal Democratic Party, is known for savvily engineering elections, sending novices to parliament, as well as dooming candidates to defeat. His is embroiled in a political funding scandal but his presence has hung like a shadow over the party leadership campaign.

Noda is a staunch supporter of the Japan-U.S. security alliance, which he has called "essential for Japan's security and prosperity." And while praising China's economic development, he has cited concerns about their growing military strength.

As finance minister since June 2010, Noda has been contending with budgets and a strong yen, which hit a post-World War II high against the dollar earlier this month.

Noda must also deal with a divided parliament, which has increased gridlock, after the opposition won control of the upper house last summer.

Japan has been plagued by rapid turnover in political leadership that has undermined its

ability to tackle serious problems. The past five prime ministers lasting about a year each; Kan lasted the longest at nearly 15 months.

Kaieda is the third Democratic leader since the party surged to a landslide victory two years ago, dumping the long-ruling conservatives, amid widespread hope for change.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam to free more than 10,000 prisoners

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's president has ordered more than 10,000 prisoners freed as part of the country's annual National Day amnesty. Five of those had been convicted of national security crimes, but no high-profile dissidents were included. Three were ethnic minorities from the restive Central Highlands. Eleven of the 10,535 inmates being freed are foreigners, including nationals of the United States, Canada and Australia. National Day is Sept. 2.

Bus-truck collision in China kills 17, injures 17

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese news agency says a collision between a bus loaded with migrant workers and a truck has killed 17 people. Xinhua News Agency says 17 other people were injured in the crash early Sunday near Zhangjiakou, a city northwest of Beijing. Xinhua says the bus carrying 34 migrant workers rear-ended a semi-trailer that was parked at the roadside. Serious traffic accidents are common in China due to lax driving habits, overloaded vehicles and bad road conditions.

Abu Sayyaf frees 2 kidnap victims in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police in the southern Philippines say Muslim militants have freed two traders from a week of jungle captivity after a ransom was paid. Police say the Abu Sayyaf gunmen freed the two in a village in mountainous Patikul town in Sulu province Sunday near where the militants killed seven marines in a July 28 clash. Two of the marines were beheaded, prompting a new military crackdown on the small but brutal al-Qaida-linked group. Police say relatives paid \$2,400 (100,000 pesos) to secure the release of the Filipino traders. They were snatched on Aug. 21 as they were returning home after selling clothes in a marine camp.

Typhoon hits Taiwan after pummeling PH

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Typhoon Nanmadol slammed into Taiwan on Monday, unleashing heavy winds and torrential downpours that closed schools and offices and prompted the evacuation of thousands of people in the landslide-prone south.

Nanmadol made landfall just before daybreak in Taitung county in the remote southeast and headed toward heavily populated coastal areas on the west coast. It had winds of 68 mph (108 kph), down from earlier peaks almost twice that high.

It hit Taiwan after claiming at

least 12 lives in the Philippines, and leaving another nine people missing. It was expected to pass about 130 miles (200 kilometers) south of Taiwan's capital, Taipei, before heading for the Taiwan Strait and the eastern coast of China.

As of 10 a.m. (0200 GMT), many domestic flights had been canceled, and officials with Taiwan's high speed rail network, which serves heavily populated areas along the west coast, were weighing a suspension of services. The storm had dumped almost 20 inches (half a meter) of rain

in the mountainous south, where vulnerability to catastrophic landslides led to the evacuation of some 8,000 people.

According to the website of Taipei's main international airport, almost all overseas flights were operating normally.

With its enormous cloud band, the slow moving typhoon drenched the northern part of the Philippines with rain for days before pummeling the area with fierce winds, setting off landslides and floods and knocking down walls, the cause of the majority of casualties in

that country, said Benito Ramos, who heads the Office of Civil Defense.

In Taiwan, the area most severely affected by the early phase of the storm was Pingtung county in the southwest, where civil defense crews used small boats to rescue people from rural communities inundated by flash flooding.

Pingtung is just to the south of the mountainous regions where more than 500 people died two years ago in mudslides spawned by torrential rains associated with Typhoon Morakot, the

most devastating storm to hit the island in half a century.

A slow government response to that catastrophe prompted a fusillade of criticism aimed at President Ma Ying-jeou, who is up for re-election this January.

In the immediate wake of Morakot, Ma announced that he was reorienting the major mission of the island's armed forces away from defending against a possible Chinese invasion—the two sides split amid civil war in 1949—and toward disaster relief. That was evident over the course of the weekend, as the military dispatched troops and rescue equipment to vulnerable areas, unlike during Morakot.

Singapore narrowly elects Tony Tan as president

SINGAPORE (AP)—Former Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan won a narrow victory to become the country's seventh president, officials said Sunday, a sign that the popularity of the Southeast Asian city-state's ruling party is eroding.

The 71-year-old Tan received 35 percent of about 2.1 million votes in Saturday's election, edging former member of parliament Tan Cheng Bock by just 7,269 ballots, Elections Department chief Yam Ah Mee said early Sunday. Tan Jee Say earned 25 percent of the vote, while Tan Kin Lian got 5 percent.

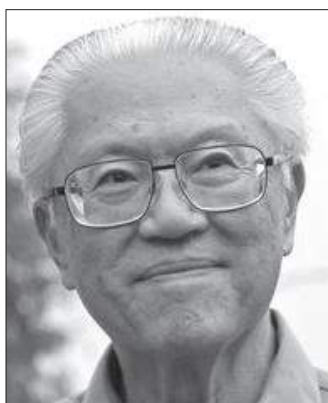
The announcement of the results was delayed by a few hours as election officials recounted the votes because of the tight contest between the top two candidates.

The election was Singapore's first contested vote for president—mainly a ceremonial position in the country's parliamentary government—since 1993.

"I plan to work my utmost for Singaporeans whatever be their political affiliation," Tan said after the results were announced. "The presidency is above politics."

Analysts were closely watching the performance of Tony Tan, who was backed by most of the political establishment, as a barometer of voter discontent with the ruling People's Action Party, which has held power since 1959.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the PAP did not officially endorse Tan, but Lee praised Tan last month and didn't mention any of the other three candidates. Until last



Tan

month, Tan was executive director of sovereign wealth fund Government of Singapore Investment Corp. and chairman of media company Singapore Press Holdings.

In May, the PAP's vote total in parliamentary elections fell to 60 percent—its lowest since Singapore split from Malay-

sia in 1965—amid a backlash against soaring housing prices, a surge in foreign workers and rising income inequality.

The PAP maintains a large majority in parliament, with 81 of 87 seats. But its grip on power—once so complete that it controlled every parliament seat and PAP candidates won most districts unopposed—appears to be slipping.

"The overwhelming majority of the voters didn't vote for the government-sponsored candidate," said Tan Jee Say, who lost a bid for a parliament seat in May representing the opposition Singapore Democratic Party. "More than 60 percent wanted some checks and balances."

Singapore's constitution allows the president to veto the use of the country's reserves and some public office appoint-

ments, but doesn't give the post any executive authority.

Tan Cheng Bock was a PAP member of parliament from 1980 to 2006, but said during the campaign that he would put the interests of the country above those of the party and speak out if the government makes a mistake.

"I'm not a proxy to any political party. I'm not a proxy to the PAP," he said early Sunday before the results were announced. "I'm the one who can unify all Singaporeans."

Outgoing President S.R. Nathan, who won two six-year terms unopposed, consulted with the prime minister and Cabinet in private but avoided public comment on government policy. Tony Tan and government spokesmen sought in recent weeks to quell calls for an expanded role for the president.

Tan will take office Sept. 1.

World

Gadhafi forces killed detainees, survivors say

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Retreating loyalists of Moammar Gadhafi killed scores of detainees and arbitrarily shot civilians over the past week, as rebel forces extended their control over the Libyan capital, survivors and a human rights group said Sunday.

In one case, Gadhafi fighters opened fire and hurled grenades at more than 120 civilians huddling in a hangar used as a makeshift lockup near a military base, said Mabrouk Abdullah, 45, who escaped with a bullet wound in his side. Some 50 charred corpses were still scattered across the hangar on Sunday.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said the evidence it has collected so far “strongly suggests that Gadhafi government forces went on a spate of arbitrary killing as Tripoli was falling.” The justice minister in the rebels’ interim government, Mohammed al-Alagi, said the allegations would be investigated and leaders of Gadhafi’s military units put on trial.

So far, there have been no specific

allegations of atrocities carried out by rebel fighters, though human rights groups are continuing to investigate some unsolved cases.

AP reporters have witnessed several episodes of rebels mistreating detainees or sub-Saharan Africans suspected of being hired Gadhafi guns. Earlier this week, rebels and their supporters did not help eight wounded men, presumably Gadhafi fighters, who were stranded in a bombed out fire station in Tripoli’s Abu Salim neighborhood, some pleading for water.

Najib Barakat, the health minister in the rebels’ interim government, said Sunday that he does not yet have a death toll for the weeklong battle for Tripoli. Hundreds have died and more bodies, some in advanced stages of decay, are still being retrieved from the streets.

Barakat said efforts are being made to identify bodies. At the least, the corpses of suspected Gadhafi fighters, especially non-Libyans, are being photographed before burial, to allow for possible future identification

by relatives.

In fighting late Sunday, pro-Gadhafi elements fired Grad rockets at rebel forces gathering in the town of Nawfaliyah, not far from Gadhafi’s home town of Sirte, rebels said.

Rebels gave residents there 10 days to allow rebel forces in peacefully or face an assault. A rebel spokesman said many Gadhafi loyalists have fled to Sirte and are preparing for a fierce battle.

Rebels rode into Tripoli a week ago,

then fought fierce battles with Gadhafi forces, especially at the former Libyan leader’s Bab al-Aziziya compound and the Abu Salim neighborhood, a regime stronghold.

As the rebels consolidated their control and Gadhafi fighters fled, reports of atrocities began emerging over the weekend.

Human Rights Watch said it has evidence indicating regime troops killed at least 17 detainees in an improvised lockup, a building of Libya’s internal

security service, in the Gargur neighborhood of Tripoli. A doctor who examined the corpses said about half had been shot in the back of the head and that abrasions on ankles and wrists suggested they had been bound.

The group spoke to Osama Al-Swayi who had been detained there, along with 24 others.

On Aug. 21, detainees heard rebels advancing and shouting “Allahu Akbar!” or “God is great” he told Human Rights Watch.

Officials: 29 dead in suicide bomb in Iraq mosque

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up inside Baghdad’s largest Sunni mosque Sunday night, killing 29 people during prayers, a shocking strike on a place of worship similar to the one that brought Iraq to the brink of civil war five years ago.

Iraqi security officials said parliament lawmaker Khalid al-Fahdawi, a Sunni, was among the dead in the 9:40 p.m. attack.

Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, a spokesman for Baghdad’s military operations command, confirmed the bombing happened inside the Um al-Qura mosque during prayers in the western Baghdad neighborhood of al-Jamiaah. The blue-domed building is the largest Sunni mosque in Baghdad.

“I heard something like a very severe wind storm, with smoke and darkness, and shots by the guards,” said eyewitness Mohammad Mustafa, who hit in the hand by shrapnel. “Is al-Qaida able to carry out their acts against worshippers? How did this breach happen?”

That the bomber detonated his explosives vest inside the mosque is particularly alarming, as it is reminiscent of a 2006 attack on a Shiite shrine in the Sunni city of Samarra that fueled widespread sectarian violence and nearly

ignited a nationwide civil war. In that strike, Sunni militants planted bombs around the Samarra shrine, destroying its signature gold dome and badly damaging the rest of the structure.

Under deposed dictator Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, Iraq’s Shiite majority was persecuted and repressed. Shiites took power after his ouster, stoking Sunni resentment that bore the insurgency.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday’s bombing, but suicide attacks generally are a hallmark of al-Qaida, which is dominated by Sunnis. Intelligence officials have speculated that al-Qaida will do almost anything to re-ignite sectarian violence, but the group recently had focused on attacking Iraqi security forces and the government to prove how unstable Iraq remains.

Safety of UN Nigeria HQ in question after bombing

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Two top U.N. officials offered conflicting views Sunday on the safety of its Nigeria headquarters after a suicide car bombing there, as the world body paused to mourn the 23 people killed in the attack claimed by a radical Muslim sect.

U.N. security chief Gregory Starr acknowledged that safety features “could have been better” to stop the speeding sedan loaded with explosives. But only hours later, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro told journalists that the building had “really, really tight” security.

Migiro earlier laid bouquets of red and white roses near a U.N. flag flying at half staff at the site of Friday’s attack, along with Nigeria’s foreign minister and the body’s acting local representative. She promised the U.N. would continue its work no matter what in Nigeria, an oil-rich country of 150 million people now violently divided by religion and ethnicity.

“We cannot allow ourselves to be intimidated by terrorism,” Migiro said.

A suicide bomber rammed through two sets of gates to reach the U.N. building’s glass reception hall. There, the bomber detonated explosives powerful enough to bring down parts of the concrete structure and blow out glass windows from other buildings in the quiet neighborhood filled with diplomatic posts.

While U.N. guards weren’t armed, Starr said the Nigerian government provided the compound armed security. It remains unclear how those forces

responded, though Nigeria’s federal police are more known for asking for bribes and intimidating civilians than protecting the public.

The U.N. also had no specific intelligence or information about Boko Haram, the radical Muslim sect from Nigeria’s northeast that claimed responsibility for the attack.

“We had some general threats worldwide and some very mixed, general threat information about the environment” in Nigeria, Starr told The Associated Press. “But no, (we had) no advanced warning.”

The U.N. compound had a long driveway that allowed the suicide bomber to pick up speed, Starr acknowledged. The gates were not heavy, as Migiro shook them herself while touring the rubble-strewn grounds. The gates also did not have one-way traffic spikes nor any additional barriers to stop a speeding vehicle.

Despite that, Migiro said the building’s security remained strong enough to provide protection while allowing the public access to the U.N.

“If people are plotting, no matter what we’re doing, we may continue to be targets,” she said. The death toll for the attack rose Sunday to 23 people killed, said Martin Dawes, a U.N. spokesman attending the trip. Dawes said another 81 people were wounded in the attack. Burial arrangements were still being made for the dead, who included Nigerians, a Kenyan and a citizen of Ivory Coast, Migiro said.

Libya’s embattled leader

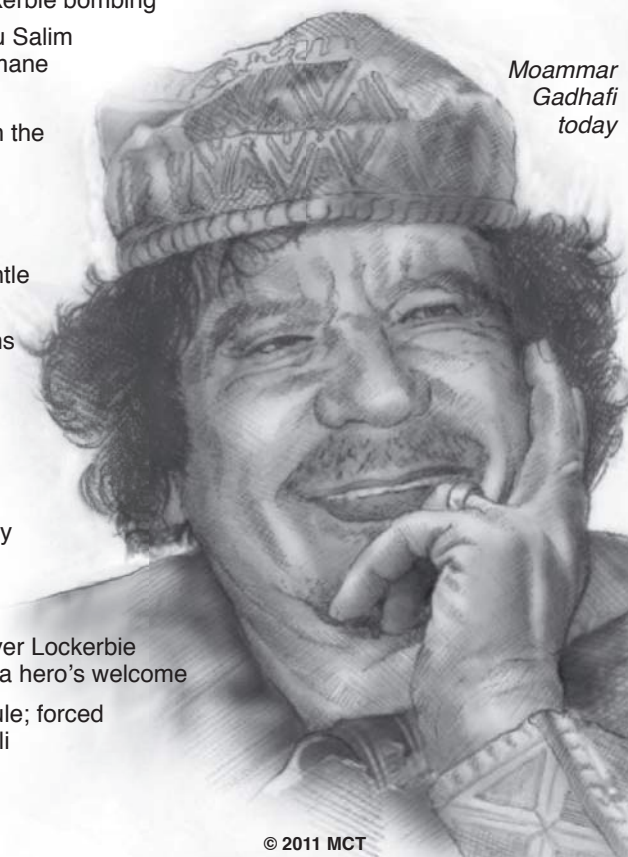
Called eccentric, capricious, monomaniacal, a tyrant, a pariah, Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi evades easy description. Born in the desert near Sirte in 1942, he seized power from King Idris in a bloodless coup in 1969 and maintained control of the country until the current rebellion.

Gadhafi’s reign

- 1970** Shuts down British, U.S. military bases in country
- 1972** Attempts to create pan-Arab state with Egypt and Syria
- 1974** Signs agreement with Tunisia to merge countries, which fails
- 1975** Writes about his vision of an Islamic-socialist state to be ruled by elected peoples’ councils with Gadhafi in charge as a “brother leader”
- 1977** Renames nation the Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, or state of the masses; power vested in network of people’s committees
- 1982** U.S. bans import of Libyan oil after accusations of Libya’s backing for international terrorists
- 1986** U.S. soldiers targeted and killed in Berlin by Libyan forces; U.S. bombs Tripoli and Benghazi, killing dozens, including Gadhafi’s adopted daughter; relations between two countries cut off
- 1988** Suspected Libyan agents plant bomb that blows up Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing 270 people, mostly Americans
- 1992** U.N. imposes sanctions on Libya over Lockerbie bombing
- 1996** Libyan forces kill 1,200 prisoners in the Abu Salim prison massacre after they had objected to inhumane conditions inside the prison
- 1999** Gadhafi hands over two Libyans charged in the Lockerbie bombing to Scottish police
- 2003** Libya acknowledges responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing and compensates victims’ relatives; U.N. sanctions lifted; says it will dismantle its weapons of mass destruction
- 2005** Major U.S. oil companies resume operations in Libya for the first time since 1986
- 2006** U.S. and Libya resume full diplomatic ties; Libya removed from U.S.’s list of countries supporting terrorism
- 2009** Gadhafi makes first address to the U.N. general assembly; during speech, tears up a copy of the U.N. charter, accuses the council of being a terrorist body similar to al-Qaida
- 2010** Seriously ill Libyan agent who was jailed over Lockerbie bombing is freed and allowed to go home; given a hero’s welcome
- 2011** Six-month revolt against his authoritarian rule; forced into hiding as rebels take control of most of Tripoli



Moammar Gadhafi, circa early 1970s



Moammar Gadhafi today

Focus

Vignettes from Irene's march up the East Coast

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP)—Parishioners of Holy Family Catholic Church sang a hymn on Sunday that assumed a new resonance the day after Hurricane Irene whipped through the area: "God will protect us from darkness and death," goes a line in "Rain Down."

"Across the street from us, a big tree came down, but it just fell right between the houses," parishioner Jeffrey Hale said. "No damage. It's the kind of thing that makes you want to come to church and give thanks."

Holy Family is the only Catholic parish for miles. The church draws its members from all over the Albemarle Sound, and many drive 30 minutes or more for services. About 80 people gathered for Mass on Sunday, less than a third of the usual crowd.

"Are we having Mass? Is the pope Catholic?" the Rev. James Buchholz told a carload of parishioners that pulled up to the church to ask if services were still on.

Buchholz also celebrated Mass Saturday evening at Holy Family as Irene was passing through the area.

"When you see the power of God in the kind of wind and rain we had yesterday, you realize there are many things to be thankful for," he said in an interview.

Like much of surrounding Elizabeth City, Holy Family largely escaped damage. A few leaks in the roof and a parking lot covered by leaves and twigs were about the extent of it. The sound system wasn't working, but the voices of the worshippers rang out in the building as they sang "Hallelujah" and recited a prayer improvised by Buchholz: "Lord, for those who were caught in inclement weather, for those who made it through and for those having rough times today, we pray. Lord, hear our prayer."

"This wasn't a hurricane. This was more like a Nor'Easter," said Bill Hogue, 82, a retired steelworker from Pittsburgh who's lived in the area for 18 years. Hogue said the winds knocked over some pillars below a porch at his home, but otherwise the damage was minimal.

Hogue's daughter had repeatedly asked her father, a Korean War veteran, to leave North Carolina ahead of Irene and join her in Virginia. Hogue shook his head at the idea.

"Why? So I can be stuck on 95 with all the other idiots?" he said. "I've got brick walls and shatterproof windows. I'm fine here."

■■■
GREENPORT, N.Y. (AP)—On Long Island, some left their homes Sunday for coffee and other essentials.

In the harborfront town of Greenport, nearly every store was boarded up with plywood and there were piles of seaweed on the sidewalk.

A few people ventured into the streets, which were still being buffeted by powerful winds.

"We came out here looking for coffee because our house lost power," said Angelica Bengloa, who is vacationing at her summer home in nearby East Marion. "We found a place open here, and as soon as they served us, their power went out. So we're very lucky."

Bengloa said her family is prepared for several days without electricity. She doesn't have to go to work in Manhattan this week because she's still on vacation, so she's not too concerned about hunkering down for a while. Her waterfront home hardly had any damage aside from a few downed tree limbs.

"We are prepared. We have batteries and food," she said. "We filled the bathtub with water so we can flush the toilet."

At a darkened 7-11 store in Southold, Chris Charczack was stocking up on saltine crackers and Coca-Cola. The store had a sign on the front that said: "OPEN. NO COFFEE." Charczack had lost power at his home, but he said it wasn't an big inconvenience.

"We'll just hang out, camp out in the house," the 30-year-old said. "Camp stoves, lanterns, everything. Everyone out here is so used to storms."

Riz Haq, who was working the register in the 7-11, said the store lost power Sunday at 6 a.m. and doesn't have a generator.

"Everything will go bad. Ice cream, ice, all sandwiches, everything," Haq said. "What can I do, you know?"

■■■
MANTEO, N.C. (AP)—A lot of people who rode out Irene in their homes say they were underwhelmed by the storm. Not Wade Thompson. Even though his house largely escaped damage, he says he won't take any chances next time.

During the week, he heard the news about the hurricane and decided to stay with his family in his one-story, wood-frame home in Manteo. He followed the usual steps: He put plywood up on his windows. Stocked up on water and flashlights and batteries. He stocked coolers with sandwich meats. He had plenty of charcoal to grill the meat he knew would defrost in his freezer because he would lose power.

"I was as ready as you can be."

On Friday night, he huddled with his family in the living room and waited.

And the storm came. Strong gusts of winds rocked his house. Power went out. He could hear debris banging against the house.

When the howling winds died down, he went outside Saturday to survey the damage. That day there was none.

By Sunday morning, water from the Roanoke Sound flooded his garage and submerged his front steps. But other than leaving behind muck, it caused little damage on his property.

"Look, I don't mind this. It could have been worse. I was blessed, really," said the 37-year-old construction worker.

He glimpsed his neighborhood. A tree had crashed into a neighbor's roof. Tree limbs and other debris littered neighbors' lawns. A thick black muck coated streets and grass.

The next time, he plans to evacuate.

"What if that tree had landed on my house? If this would have been a Category 3 or 4, what if we had 110 mile and hour winds? What then? God had his hand on us," he said. "I'm not going to take any chances again."

■■■
MILFORD, Conn. (AP)—For wheelchair users like Pat Dillon, losing electrical power from Irene's wrath is not



A surfer passes the broken end of the Bogue Inlet Fishing Pier in Emerald Isle, N.C. on August 28, 2011 showing the destructive power of Hurricane Irene.

just an inconvenience but a danger.

The 52-year-old Milford resident was among those sitting in the dark at a senior housing complex where power and a generator failed. Dillon, who was partially paralyzed from a stroke, was worried that her chair would die soon if it's not charged and the insulin in her refrigerator would go bad.

"What if we're without power for days?" Dillon asked. "Once the refrigerator gets warm, my insulin goes bad. I could go into diabetic shock."

Another resident, 62-year-old Michael Lisej leaned against a cane, watching the powerful winds whip trees. He uses oxygen sometimes and was wondering how he would make it back to his third-floor apartment with no elevators.

"It's going to be rough on me to use the stairs," Lisej said. "I got bad knees, and I have a heart condition."

But Lisej was counting his blessings, too. The housing complex is close to Long Island Sound, which gushed up onto a road nearby.

"It's nobody's fault," he said. "It's an act of nature. It could have been worse. Maybe this building could have caved in."

Richard Sutphin, a 68-year-old resident of the complex who is diabetic, said he had to inject himself with insulin in the dark. He placed a flashlight on the table so he could see what he was doing.

Sutphin noted that many residents were without power.

"The longer it goes on the more nervous you get," he said.

■■■
VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—In

a hurricane that didn't fully deliver on its fearsome forecast for most areas, Casey and Denise Robinson's battered beach house is a terrible testament to the fickle nature of extreme weather.

The Robinsons and a crew of friends arrived early Sunday to begin picking up the pieces of the storm-ravaged family getaway snuggled in the dunes of the Sandbridge section of Virginia Beach. A tornado spawned by the storm ripped the roof off their house and clawed through its contents, tossing insulation, shards of glass and splintered wood into trees, dunes and low-slung cactus.

"This one's totaled," Casey Robinson said as he hastily gathered up boogie boards and other familiar remnants of the family beach house. "This is the only one on the beach that got hit this hard."

The Robinsons went about their salvage work with unexpected cheer, reminiscing about the good times they had with their two children over the six or seven years they had owned the house.

"This foosball table's ruined," Denise Robinson said. "We played a lot of tournaments on that."

Casey Robinson, who said he and his wife and two teenage children were at their primary residence in Virginia Beach when the beach house was destroyed, summed up their sentiments with a shrug.

"No one got hurt. What are you going to do?" he asked.

The Robinsons managed to find humor in the ordeal, which included looters taking a bottle of vodka after the storm.

"They're probably all doing shots

now," Denise Robinson said with a laugh.

■■■
WASHINGTON (AP)—Roommates Amanda Johnson and John Hicks picked a good time to start their move from a rented rowhouse in Northwest Washington to another one in the same neighborhood. They're sleeping in the new one but still have many of their belongings in the other one because the leases overlap.

Shortly before noon Sunday, they returned to the old house to do some laundry, only to discover that Irene had opened a gaping hole in the third-floor wall that stretched across three houses. Hundreds of bricks were strewn across the front of the homes, and the portico above the front door of the house had been knocked askew.

Johnson and Hicks, both 24, aren't even sure what caused the damage. None of the trees nearby were tall enough to have crashed into the homes.

"Nobody got hurt," Johnson said. "We have renters' insurance, and the owner has insurance. It's just a little ridiculous."

The city had posted signs and police tape warning people to stay away from the houses, but Hicks sneaked inside anyway.

"My pet lizard is here," he said. "I gave him water and food. I'll get him later."

Johnson and Hicks posed for pictures in front of the ruined house Sunday afternoon. Two passersby asked them the same question about the damage: "Is this from the earthquake or the hurricane?"

■■■
PORT DEPOSIT, Md. (AP) After the power cut out at 3 a.m. Sunday, Debbie Hagerman had nothing to do but listen to Hurricane Irene.

Having heard about the death of a boy after a tree fell on a Virginia apartment, she was concerned about the trees in the woods surrounding her Cecil County home. Hagerman made everyone in the house sleep downstairs and she kept a door open to listen for the telltale crack of a tree snapping in the wind.

But there was no crack when a tree uprooted outside at 6 a.m. It just shook the whole house as it rumbled through her two grown daughters' second-floor bedrooms with a crash bigger than the East Coast earthquake just days earlier, she said.

"It fell right on my daughter's bed," she said. "If she had been in it she would have been squashed. She could have been killed."

Hagerman thought her family was thoroughly prepared for the storm, but they weren't prepared for a tree crashing into the house she shares with her ailing mother, two daughters, one daughter's fiancé, two cats and two dogs.

Hagerman had convinced her boyfriend, Chester Vickers, to stay over with his daughter because she thought they would be safer in her house than in their mobile home. She says the family was ready to do without power for a couple of days, but now they'll have to find a place to live until the house can be fixed up.

Overdrive

Cars that 'talk' to one another may not be far off

By DAN TRACY
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—The goal is a car that can drive itself, leaving the occupants to while away their time texting, reading, grooming, talking on the cell phone—in short, all the things they do now that cause crashes and tragedy.

The technology for a fully automated car will be on display in Orlando this fall, and supporters say it's closer to reality than most might imagine.

"That's our long-term vision," said Nady Boules, director of General Motors Co.'s electrical-control integration laboratory in Warren, Mich. "Cars that drive themselves and, as such, cars that do not crash."

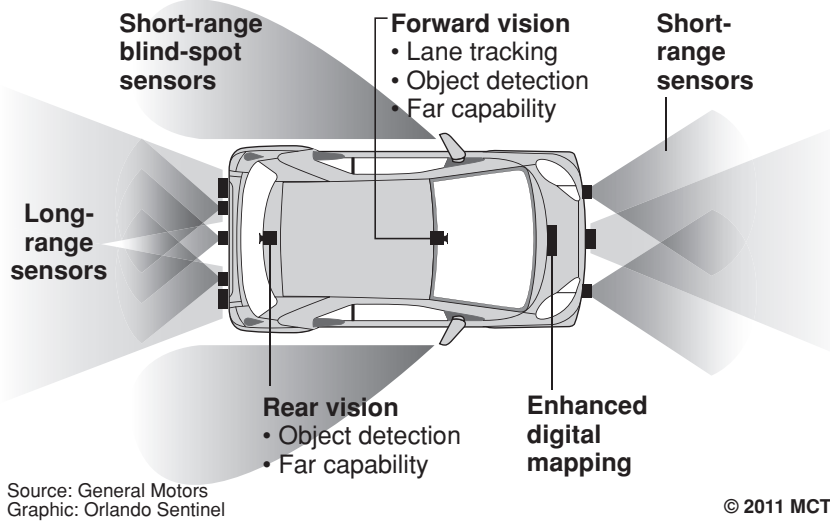
Sometime within the next decade, he predicted, cars will be capable of going from point A to point B without human input at all.

Much closer to reality than driverless vehicles are "connected cars" equipped with sensors and onboard computers that enable them to dodge moving vehicles or even stationary objects.

Driverless cars already have been tested, using autos already on the showroom floor as well as experimental vehicles. In 2007, a Chevrolet Tahoe navigated an abandoned Air Force base in California for 55 miles, interacting with cars being driven and other pilotless vehicles.

The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that connected vehicles could reduce accidents involving un-

How 'connected cars' work



impaired drivers by 80 percent.

The autos would rely on devices that would have a monitoring range of about a quarter-mile, reading signals sent out from other equipped cars, plus units placed at traffic lights or stop signs.

Information such as a car's location and speed would be exchanged constantly.

So, Boules said, if the car in front slows and the driver behind misses the change, the trailing auto would automatically slow. More significantly, a car about to pass through a green light might stop if another auto were running the red light.

The system might also alert the driver with a beep or a warning, allowing

the motorist to make an adjustment.

In 2013, Boules said, key decisions will be made at the federal level about the research GM and seven other automakers are conducting on connected cars. Possibilities range from a law mandating installation of the systems to simply allowing automotive sales to determine what comes next.

Boules said it is relatively cheap to install the technology in new cars, in part because much of what is needed often is already present, including speakers and screens for satellite GPS.

Older cars could get the same results by purchasing devices that would plug into a lighter socket like a GPS, he said. He would not discuss pricing.

In Orlando this October, a test of the connected cars will occur on the racetrack at Walt Disney World, said Mike Pina, a U.S. Department of Transportation spokesman. Cars from different manufacturers will be used, and as many as 100 people will be recruited to drive.

"What we have not done is see how real people will do," Pina said.

Similar clinics will be in five other states starting this month and running into the spring.

One potential problem for these high-tech advancements could be privacy. Connected-car devices would constantly track the whereabouts of each vehicle, lending it something of a Big Brother specter.

But Boules said such monitoring already occurs with the onboard computers and GPS programs linked to centers that send assistance when there is a breakdown or accident.

"It's not a major concern for us because we know how to handle it," Boules said. "It's not something that would shock customers from a privacy standpoint."

On the plus side, Boules contends insurance could be cheaper for cars equipped with avoidance systems, much as safety belts resulted in lower rates.

But, he cautioned, the devices would not absolve the person behind the wheel if there were an accident.

"Ultimately," he said, "it will be the driver's responsibility."

Tinting can keep your car cooler in summer sun

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Tommy Ulrich is spending his first summer in Florida, and the Sunshine state, he says, is all it is cracked up to be, and more.

"I have an SUV, and very little shade to park it in at home and at work. It takes the air conditioner forever to cool it down. Would tinting the windows help?" he asks.

The short answer: It couldn't hurt. Quality tint, properly applied, doesn't bubble up, streak, turn purple or peel every time you raise or lower the window.

But before you shop, be aware that some states have laws that govern window tinting. Fortunately, you don't have to figure this out on your own. Tint shops are well aware of the law, and how dark and reflective tint can be.

Usually, tinting on the windshield is allowed, but only above what is called the "AS-1" line, which is roughly from the top of the window down to the rear-view mirror. It's illegal to tint the rest of the windshield, so carrying one of those fold-up sun reflectors that stretches across your dashboard when you park is a good idea if you can't find shade or a garage.

Here are a few other factors to consider when it comes to car window tinting:

What brand? Expect products from top-quality manufacturers like SolarGuard and 3M to cost more than no-name brands, but even those quality manufacturers offer different price levels for their products. Quality can sometimes be gauged by the length of a warranty, a lifetime warranty from a name brand suggests that it should be a pretty good product.

Do it yourself? A custom-cut tint kit for your vehicle can cost from \$50 to \$125, depending on the quality and the vehicle itself. Some vehicles have only a few windows that are easy to get to, while others, SUVs, for example, have a lot of glass to tint. Some vehicles may be especially challenging, usually cars with unusual curves in the glass, or windows that are especially hard to access from inside. Figure on spending at least two hours doing a proper tint job, and be sure to follow the directions, some kits have an instructional DVD, or refer you to an on-line tutorial.

Have it done professionally? Prices vary from one tint shop to the next, depending on the vehicle and the type of window film. Quotes may vary from \$80 to \$350 or more. Your best bet is to use a professional shop that has been in business for a while, and that offers several brands of film to choose from.

This baffler is fixable

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Question: I have a 1999 Buick Park Avenue with 105,000 miles on it. I'm an elderly lady so I won't be trying to fix this myself. While driving on the highway, it just stops with no warning. I move to the shoulder of the road and it restarts immediately. It does this randomly, not every time, usually only once during an errand. It never does this when you apply the brakes to come to a stop. It does not do this when you are slowing down, only when you are driving at a level speed. The warning light does not come on when this happens.

I took it to my regular dealership and let them keep it for two weeks to drive it and see if they could determine the cause. It did the same thing when they drove it. They have no explanation. They said it would have to stop and not start immediately so it could be diagnosed.

I don't feel safe driving it like this, because in some places there is no shoulder to pull on. I don't drive it myself; but my family uses it to take me to my doctor's appointments because it's easier for me to get in and out of. Buying another car is not an option at my age. This one has always been reliable up to now. Could you suggest a few things I could have a mechanic check?

Answer: This has to be the most frustrating and scary situation one can have with an automobile and we will positively get to the bottom of it! Let me begin by complimenting your symptom description, the folks at the dealership should have given you huge hugs for providing such exquisite details of the problem! I'm disappointed they didn't come through for you. To their credit, they aren't parts replacers.

It's true one needs to see a fault occurring to properly diagnose it, but there are tools that can help expand peripheral vision. Any good professional grade scan tool has a recording mode. This allows the large list of engine data to be captured chronologically and reviewed, like playing back the video camera when someone breaks into the ATM. I'd set the scan tool to take a recording, then drive the Buick until it quits, and immediately pull the trigger. Upon playback one can look at engine data second by second: before, during, and after the trigger point. A lot of things change at the instant an engine stops running, one needs to look at the data frame one click prior to see which input became irrational.

The two most likely causes, according to Identifix (a great online diagnostic tool used by repair shops to learn what others are doing to fix similar problems) and my own GM dealership experience are a bad crankshaft position sensor or a bad mass airflow

sensor. I'd also perform a tap test (with engine bay nice and hot), giving each of these components a series of little smacks; if the engine quits, you've found the problem. The Buick could also be driven with the mass airflow sensor unplugged (the engine management system will grudgingly do without the sensor and illuminate the service engine soon light). If the fault recurs, it's not that sensor, and visa versa. Connection problems are also possible, they will be more difficult to pin down, but pointed to by the scan tool recording.

This is fixable! Have the dealer give the job to their best tech or find another shop that will go the distance to give you peace of mind once again.

■■■■■
QUESTION: I have a question about transmissions. I recently bought a replacement car that has, I believe, a four-speed automatic transmission. Sometimes when I am climbing a hill, I can feel the transmission downshift to what seems to be a gear between third and fourth. I also have noticed this occasionally when I manually up-shift between third and fourth. What's going on? Is it actually a five-speed? From what I've read, they don't make those.—Vern Bueller

Answer: Vern, that shift you're feeling is probably your torque converter clutch disengaging or re-engaging. The torque converter in an automatic

transmission equipped vehicle is a fluid coupling between the engine and transmission. This gadget allows a vehicle to come to a stop with the engine running and transmission in gear and also allows greater engine torque (twisting force) to be applied to the drive wheels during acceleration.

Imagine two propellers in a liquid-filled chamber. The engine is connected to one; the transmission joins to the other. The fluid churned by the first propeller drives the second one, but in a flexible way. This works great for coming to a stop and accelerating, but at steady highway speed, there's an efficiency loss that cuts into fuel economy and generates needless heat. Most cars and light trucks built since the 1980s add a lock-up feature or clutch to the torque converter. During light load, warmed-up, mid-speed and higher operation, the clutch is engaged, locking both propellers together. An attentive driver may feel the engagement or disengagement, which feels like a transmission shift. One may also see this in the tachometer, about a three hundred RPM change.

A gentle torque converter clutch thump is a normal occurrence. One can check to be sure the converter clutch works by very lightly applying the brake pedal at speed with your left foot while maintaining a steady throttle. Brake pedal input cancels torque converter clutch lockup, which should be noticeable.

Life & Style

Q&A with Whitesnake singer David Coverdale

By STEVE KNOPPER
NEWSDAY

When hair metal took off in the late '80s, bands like Mötley Crüe and Poison seemed to come out of nowhere, but not Whitesnake.

By 1987, when the hard rockers were enjoying such smash hits as "Here I Go Again" and the power ballad "Is This Love," operatic frontman David Coverdale already had been in numerous British bands, including Deep Purple. Since then, Coverdale, 59, has retired and reunited Whitesnake several times, reshuffling its lineup as he goes, but the band is on again, with a stable, veteran lineup.

Q. You recently referred to recording a Whitesnake album at Ringo Starr's house, where John Lennon and Yoko Ono used to live. Which album was that, and how did it come about?

A. It was John Lennon's house, Tittenhurst Park at Ascot (in England). He bought this astonishing, grand house with 80 acres and sold it to Ringo for exactly the price he paid for it, not a penny more. And Ringo sold it years later for 8 million pounds. The album I made was "Come and Get It" ... I met Ringo, I was very close with George. Are we doing a Beatles interview? I know Paul Stanley (of Kiss), too! I know Jimmy Page as well. Oh, my God, I'm going to be a gossip monger.

Q. The first thing I notice on the latest Whitesnake album,



David Coverdale

"Forevermore," is that you still hit the high notes. How do you preserve your voice?

A. I thank God every day. That's primarily it. When I'm working, I stop drinking. I love wine and I love my single malts and my Cognacs.

Q. After the smash 1987 "Whitesnake" album, you toured with Mötley Crüe. As someone who had already lived through backstage debauchery, what did you make of their infamous high jinks with drugs and groupies?

A. I was entirely familiar with that decadence, are you kidding me? We got away with Julius Caesar-style decadence, or Caligula. It was funny to me to see the young guys embracing that.

Q. So, any Jimmy Page gossip?

A. Pagey's, like, one of my favorite people in the world. He came down to a London show, I've lost track of time, two months ago. He looks better than I've seen him in a long time. Very healthy, ready to rock.

25 years later, actress fondly remembers 'Top Gun' but has moved on

Kelly McGillis at her home in Collingswood, New Jersey. "I'm not reinventing myself," she says. "I'm reintroducing myself."

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Kelly McGillis signed with Paramount Studios in the mid-'80s to make two features films. The first, "Witness," was a huge hit and earned her a Golden Globe nomination. The actress had some specific ideas about what she wanted to do in the second movie but the Paramount brass had already decided: It would be about a group of young test pilots.

It wasn't exactly the film McGillis would have picked for herself, but "Top Gun" went

on to become the biggest box office draw of 1986, taking in more than \$176 million. From its driving Kenny Loggins tune "Danger Zone" to the catch phrase "I feel the need, the need for speed," "Top Gun" became a hit and remains as high-flying as ever.

A 25th anniversary edition will be released Tuesday. It includes a six-part documentary on the making of the film and interviews with cast and crew.

"I never thought the film would be considered a classic, it was just a fun movie to make," McGillis says. "It had good-looking people and great visu-

als. It was pure entertainment and a way for people to escape and forget their problems."

Director Tony Scott combined the action of a group of hot shot pilots, played by Tom Cruise, Val Kilmer and Anthony Edwards, with a love story between a cocky pilot, known as Maverick (Cruise), and his civilian instructor (McGillis).

Scott had such a clear vision of how he wanted the movie to look that McGillis and Cruise had to go to the airport tarmac every day for a week just so a scene had the right light.

McGillis, 54, was willing to get a little nostalgic for the release of "Top Gun," but gener-

ally she looks at the present and future. After taking some time off to raise her two daughters, McGillis has started slowly getting back into acting. She finds most casting directors are surprised to see she's not that same-looking twenty-something who broke hearts in "Top Gun."

"People in this business are trying to look perpetually 30 years old. But, people get older. I don't want to color my hair. I don't want to do that stuff to try to look younger. I want to be who I am. I want to be a character actress," McGillis says. "I hope that I get to work but it's all out of my control."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Stephen King e-story 'Mile 81' coming Sept. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen King is back in the e-book game. The horror master is releasing a short story in digital format only. Scribner announced Thursday that "Mile 81," a "chilling story" set at a rest stop on the Maine Turnpike, will go on sale Sept. 1 at a suggested price of \$2.99. The new book will also include an excerpt from King's upcoming novel, "11/22/63." Klout, a San Francisco-based website that helps measure online influence, will allow some users to download "Mile 81" for free. King has a long history of writing stories as e-exclusives. His "Riding the Bullet" novella was an early Internet sensation when it came out in 2000.

Jon Stewart to host session with Nirvana members

NEW YORK (AP)—Comedy Central's Jon Stewart will host a Q&A session with the surviving members of rock band Nirvana to celebrate the 20th anniversary

of its album "Nevermind." Stewart will host the event on SiriusXM for two hours on Sept. 24. It will feature fans, Nirvana band members Dave Grohl and Krist Novoselic, and Butch Vig, the producer behind "Nevermind." Kurt Cobain, the band's lead singer, committed suicide in 1994. "Nevermind" was the band's second album and has sold 10 million units in the United States. It features Nirvana's biggest hit, "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Grohl is now the lead singer of the Foo Fighters. SiriusXM will also launch the all-Nirvana channel, Nevermind Radio, on Sept. 23 until Sept. 28.

Keith Richards memoir 'Life' goes platinum

NEW YORK (AP)—Keith Richards has gone platinum as an author. The Rolling Stones' memoir, "Life," has sold more than 1 million copies since coming out last fall. "Hail to the Keef!" Little, Brown and Company publisher Michael Pietsch in a statement Thursday, noting

that "Life" was among the best-selling rock memoirs of all time. The 67-year-old Richards received more than \$7 million for his book, which received almost universal raves.

Wahlberg brothers pay for NY firm's burger name

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)—Actor brothers Donnie and Mark Wahlberg have licensed the name of a hamburger from a western New York chain of drive-in-style restaurants and plan to use it for their new eatery in Boston. Executives with Tom Wahl's tell the Democrat and Chronicle newspaper the brothers have licensed the Wahlburger name from the company so they can use it when they and another sibling, Paul, open a burger joint named Wahlburgers Restaurant in their hometown. Tom Wahl's serves a cheeseburger called a Wahlburger and owns the federal trademark rights to the name. Tom Wahl opened the first Tom Wahl's restaurant in 1955 in Avon, south of Rochester. He

sold it in 1986. The chain now operates eight restaurants. The company hasn't disclosed the amount of the licensing agreement.

Whoopi Goldberg adopts kitten rescued on NY bridge

NEW YORK (AP)—A kitten tossed from a moving car on New York City's Verrazano Bridge now has a name—and a celebrity "mom." Whoopi Goldberg has posted a video of Vinny on her Facebook page. It shows the adorable gray kitten grooming himself and batting a feather toy with his paw. Vinny was rescued in July. An Animal Care & Control officer who happened to be driving on the bridge witnessed the kitten being thrown. Goldberg notes on her page that she met Vinny on the ABC talk show "The View," where she's a co-host. Goldberg says her other cat, Oliver, is "not too happy" about the new family member. But she adds: "I think he'll get Oliver to come around sooner than later."

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



The last day of the Novena for Ramon S. Awit will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 2011, 5:30 p.m. at the Kristo Rai Church, followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (mass). Eulogy and public viewing of his remains shall follow thereafter.

At 12 midnight of the same day, his remains shall be brought to Delta Airlines in preparation for an early morning flight to Manila, Philippines, where his remains shall be received by his siblings.

Annamae and his children will be joining Ramon's siblings in Manila on September 4, 2011, in time for his burial. He will be finally laid to rest in the Garden of Memories, located in Pateros, Manila on September 8, 2011.

Perry wins top award but Beyonce baby tops show

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

Beyonce and Jay-Z's offspring doesn't even have a name yet, but it was the indisputable breakout star of Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, upstaging everyone, even Katy Perry's win for video of the year.

Perry, who had the most nominations coming into the show with 10, came away with three moonman trophies, including video of the year for the inspirational clip "Firework."

"I feel like I'm doing something right when I sing that song," said Perry, conservatively dressed in a cotton-candy pink jacket, a skirt and something best described as a Green Bay Packer cheesehead decoration.

But the night's big news came from Beyonce, who stole

WINNERS' LIST

Here are the winners of Sunday night's 2011 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles:

- **Pop Music Video:** Britney Spears, "Till the World Ends."
- **Rock video:** Foo Fighters, "Walk."
- **Hip-hop video:** Nicki Minaj, "Super Bass."
- **Collaboration:** Katy Perry featuring Kanye West, "E.T."
- **Male video:** Justin Bieber, "U Smile."
- **Female video:** Lady Gaga, "Born This Way."
- **Video with a message:** Lady Gaga, "Born This Way."
- **Choreography:** Beyonce, "Run the World (Girls)."
- **Editing:** Adele, "Rolling in the Deep."
- **Special effects:** Katy Perry featuring Kanye West, "E.T."
- **Cinematography:** Adele, "Rolling in the Deep."
- **Art direction:** Adele, "Rolling in the Deep."
- **Direction:** Adele, "Rolling in the Deep."
- **Best new artist:** Tyler, The Creator, "Yonkers."
- **Video of the year:** Katy Perry, "Firework."

the show before it even began when she announced on the black carpet that after more than three years of marriage, the dazzling couple had produced

the ultimate all-star collaboration. Dressed in a loose-fitting, off-the-shoulder red gown, she clutched the baby bump that so many celeb-watchers had been

predicting since the two wed.

Later, Beyonce performed "Love on Top," and if Twitter hadn't already spread the news, her outfit gave clues to her impending motherhood; instead of her typical sexy outfits, she dressed in conservative spangled tux - but still danced around in her signature stilettos.

Beyonce didn't utter a word about the pregnancy, but ended the number by taking off her jacket and rubbing her swollen belly; in the audience, an elated Jay-Z hooted and clapped for his wife as Kanye West hugged him.

In an instant, Beyonce and her soon-to-be child (Jayonce?) managed to overshadow the night's events. Lady Gaga's much-hyped opening number, during which she performed as a greasy, leather-jacketed male alter-ego during a performance of "You and I," became less interesting. So did the evening's meticulously planned wild moments, from Nicki Minaj's origami-like outfit to a dance-off between the members of Odd Future and Jack Black, Will Ferrell and Seth Rogen.

There was one apparently unscripted moment during Jay-Z's performance with Kanye West of "Otis," off their chart-topping joint album "Watch the Throne." Near the end of the song, someone tried to walk on the stage, but was quickly apprehended by a crew member as a bemused Jay-Z looked on. It was the second time Jay-Z had someone walk on unannounced during an MTV performance; two years ago, it was Lil Mama.

Britney Spears captured the night's first award, for best pop video, and later was honored with an MTV Video Vanguard award for her visual legacy. Lady Gaga, sticking to her gender-switch shtick, leered at Spears as she paid tribute to her.

"She's a pop music legend, and the industry would not be the same without her," Gaga said. "I used to hang pictures of



Beyonce arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011, in Los Angeles.

her on my wall and touch myself when I was in bed."

Later, Gaga fished for a kiss, but as Spears leaned in, she quickly pulled back, reminding viewers, "I've done that before."

The show had no official host, though comedian Kevin Hart delivered an opening monologue and was featured in a series of vignettes during the show.

Adele had perhaps the highlight of the night as the seven-time nominee delivered a powerfully understated performance of "Someone Like You," off her top-selling "21" album; she came away with three trophies on the night, tying with Perry.

Chris Brown also wowed with an aerial number, soaring above the crowd in between high-stepping choreography.

Russell Brand provided the evening's rare poignant moment during a tribute to his late friend,

Amy Winehouse, who died a month ago after struggling for years with drug and alcohol abuse. Brand urged people to remember the 28-year-old for her music, and urged others suffering to get help.

"A lot of people just get the disease, not many people get the incredible talent that Amy was blessed with," said Brand, who successfully battled drug addiction himself. "Let's remember there is a solution. That solution is available."

Tony Bennett, who joined Winehouse in what is believed to be her last song on his upcoming "Duets II" album, showed the audience a clip of the pair singing "Body and Soul."

Moments later, Bruno Mars sang one of her hits, "Valerie," but closed the song out with the refrain, "Amy, we'll miss you baby."

'The Help' reigns again over storm-soaked weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Help" remained Hollywood's top draw with \$14.3 million on a slow late-summer weekend whose business was even more sluggish as many East Coast theaters closed to ride out the storm there.

"It was a wild weekend," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution at Disney, which released DreamWorks Pictures' "The Help." "All things considered, to kind of come out with business down only 15 to 20 percent is something to be pretty thankful for."

"The Help" has been the No. 1 film for two-straight weekends. The acclaimed adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's novel about black Southern maids sharing stories about white employers amid the civil-rights movement raised its domestic total to \$96.6 million and should cross the

1. **"The Help,"** \$14.3 million.
2. **"Colombiana,"** \$10.3 million.
3. **"Don't Be Afraid of the Dark,"** \$8.7 million.
4. **"Rise of the Planet of the Apes,"** \$8.65 million (\$22.1 million international).
5. **"Our Idiot Brother,"** \$6.6 million.
6. **"Spy Kids: All the Time in the World,"** \$5.7 million.
7. **"The Smurfs,"** \$4.8 million.
8. **"Conan the Barbarian,"** \$3.1 million.
9. **"Fright Night,"** \$3 million.
10. **"Crazy, Stupid, Love,"** \$2.9 million.

\$100 million mark Tuesday. Zoe Saldana's action tale

"Colombiana," released by Sony, opened in second-place with \$10.3 million. Guy Pearce and Katie Holmes' horror story "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," a FilmDistrict release, debuted in third with \$8.7 million. Paul Rudd's comedy "Our Idiot Brother," distributed by the Weinstein Co., premiered at No. 5 with \$6.6 million.

Overall business plunged, with domestic revenues totaling \$88 million, down 23 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Takers" led with \$20.5 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"It's not like this was destined to be a blockbuster weekend, anyway," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "But going to the movies is not a top priority when you're concerned about severe weather."

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NOW SHOWING



Don't Be Afraid of the Dark

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Guy Pearce, Katie Holmes
 Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

A young girl inadvertently unleashes a race of ancient monsters while exploring her father's 19th century mansion in this horror remake written by Guillermo del Toro and Matthew Robbins, and directed by newcomer Troy Nixey. Introverted Sally Hurst (Bailee Madison) has just moved in with her father, Alex (Guy Pearce), and his girlfriend, Kim (Katie Holmes), when she realizes that their sprawling estate holds its fair share of secrets.



Conan The Barbarian

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Jason Momoa, Rachel Nichols
 Action Fantasy • Rated R

Synopsis

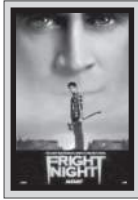
When a powerful force of supernatural evil threatens to destroy Hyboria, legendary Cimmerian warrior Conan (Jason Momoa) raises his sword against mythical monsters and treacherous enemies. Ron Perlman, Rose McGowan, Stephen Lang, and Rachel Nichols co-star in a sweeping fantasy adventure based on the character created by Robert E. Howard, and directed by Marcus Nispel (The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Friday the 13th).



Spy Kids: All the Time in the World

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Jessica Alba, Joel McHale
 Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG



Fright Night

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Collin Farrell, Anthon Yelchin
 Horror • Rated R



Final Destination 5

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Nicholas D'Agosto, Emma Bell
 Horror • Rated R



Rise of the Planet of the Apes

Friday	4:20	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

James Franco, Freida Pinto
 Science fiction • Rated PG 13



The Smurfs

Friday	4:05		
Saturday	1:05	4:05	
Sunday	1:05	4:05	
Mon thru Thurs	4:05		

Hank Azaria, George Lopez
 Children's family, Comedy • Rated PG



30 Minutes or Less

Friday	7:05	9:35
Saturday	7:05	9:35
Sunday	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs	7:05	

Jesse Eisenberg, Danny McBride
 Comedy • Rated R

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Tom Jones cancels concert, cites 'dehydration'

LONDON (AP)—"Sex Bomb" singer Tom Jones was recovering in a Monaco hospital Sunday, saying "severe dehydration" forced him to cancel a concert in the glamorous principality.

The longtime star, famed for his swivel-hipped appeal and soulful voice, apologized to his fans on his website and emphatically denied British press reports that he had suffered a heart scare that forced him to cancel his Monaco concert Saturday night.

"There are NO heart problems, as has been reported in the press," the singer's website stated.

Jones, a 71-year-old Welshman who burst to international

fame in 1964 with "It's Not Unusual" and other hits, blamed his illness on a long successful tour "where many of the shows were in locations that were in the throes of high summer heat."

The website statement indicated that Jones had no choice but to make a rare cancellation: "Sir Tom was ordered by doctors not to perform in Monte Carlo yesterday evening due to severe dehydration," the statement read. "This was extremely disappointing for Tom, the band and all connected with the tour."

Saturday's canceled show

was to have been the finale of his 3-month "Praise & Blame" tour.



Jones

A spokesman for the Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco told The Associated Press that Jones was admitted to the hospital Saturday night and was doing well Sunday. There was no word on when Jones would be released.

Jones, whose charisma on-stage earned some comparisons to U.S. rocker Elvis Presley, made his singing debut at three. He appeared in hundreds of clubs and dance halls before his breakthrough series of

hits catapulted him to some of the world's finest venues, with repeated shows at Las Vegas' glitzy hotels and casinos.

At the peak of his fame, and for decades afterward, adoring women near the front of the audience would shower him with their underwear as a sign of devotion.

Jones held onto his sexy image for decades, only recently agreeing to perform and be photographed without touching up the gray in his hair and beard.

In his statement, the apologetic crooner thanked fans for their understanding and support.

Jones plans a short tour of central and eastern Europe beginning in November.

Facebook boosts photo size, makes them load faster

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook is increasing the size of photos that people post to its website and making them load twice as fast as before.

Photos will now be 33 percent wider, with a variable height. The last time the company increased its photo size was in March 2010.

Facebook said Friday that sharing photos is one of the most popular activities on its social network. Users upload more than 250 million photos each day. Facebook said the new features will be available to users over the next few days.

The changes come the same week that Facebook said it is letting users pre-approve having their names attached to a photo posted by a friend before that photo appears on their profile. The tagged photo will still appear on the friend's page and could show up in the news feeds of common friends. But users can remove their names after the photos are posted.

Casey Anthony prosecutor writing book about case

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—One of the prosecutors in the Casey Anthony murder trial is writing a book about the case.

Jeff Ashton confirmed to the Orlando Sentinel that he is finishing a book entitled "Imperfect Justice: Prosecuting Casey Anthony." It is scheduled for release in November. He declined to give details.

Ashton was the co-prosecutor in the trial of Anthony, the young Florida mother accused of murdering her 2-year-old daughter Caylee. The trial garnered national media attention.

Ashton gave an impassioned closing argument, saying that Anthony killed Caylee because the little girl interfered with her social and love life. He was criticized by the judge for laughing during defense attorney Jose Baez's closing argument and apologized.



Georg Friedrich Ferdinand Prince of Prussia, left, and Princess Sophie of Isenburg leave the church after the wedding celebrations in the church in Potsdam, Germany Saturday Aug. 27, 2011. The Prince of Prussia is the current head of the Imperial House of Hohenzollern, the former ruling dynasty of the German Empire and of the Kingdom of Prussia.

German royals marry with pomp

BERLIN (AP)—Prince Georg Friedrich Ferdinand of Prussia, great-great-grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, married Princess Sophie of Isenburg Saturday, a royal wedding that has rekindled German interest in the nation's long-defunct royals.

The couple were married in a church in Potsdam, outside Berlin, the former seat of the prince's family that ruled much of Germany until the monarchy was abolished in 1918.

After Saturday's ceremony, the couple traveled by horse-drawn carriage to Sanssouci Palace for a dinner and ball. Several hundred onlookers lined the streets outside of the

church to see the couple, who were relatively unknown until the announcement of the wedding. Both work as consultants in Berlin.

The 33-year-old bride wore a dress designed by Wolfgang Joop, and a diamond tiara belonging to her family. The 35-year-old groom was dressed in a top hat and tails.

The event was broadcast live on local public TV, sparking protest from members of the former communist Left party, and was splashed across the pages of newspapers and glossy magazines. The couple held a civil ceremony on Friday.

From 1871, the Kings of

Prussia also served as German Emperors, with Wilhelm II being the last. He abdicated in 1918, following World War I, and the German monarchy was dismantled.

Descendants of German royal families still carry their titles, although they have no meaning and are legally considered part of their names.

Germans view their own aristocrats skeptically, but many ardently follow the royal houses of their European neighbors. Both this year's major royal weddings, in London and Monaco, were broadcast live on German TV, attracting millions of viewers.

German literary prize for Syrian poet Adonis

BERLIN (AP)—Syrian-born poet Adonis has become the first Arabic-speaking author to receive one of Germany's most prestigious literary awards, the Goethe Prize of the city of Frankfurt.

The 81-year-old Adonis accepted the award on Sunday in Frankfurt.

Born Ali Ahmad Said in northern Syria, Adonis fled his homeland for political reasons as a young man. He now lives in Paris but still writes in Arabic.

The jury praised Adonis for bringing modern European ideas

and critical thinking into current Arab culture by using classic poetic images based in the traditions of Arabic poets.

The Goethe Prize, worth €50,000 (\$72,000), is awarded every three years on Goethe's birthday to someone whose works are deemed to reflect the spirit of the German literary giant.

In a separate ceremony in Weimar on Sunday, the Goethe Institute awarded British author John le Carre, Polish publish Adam

Michnik and French director Ariane Mnouchkine its highest award, the Goethe Medal.



Adonis

The Goethe Medal is given to artists who support the German language in an extraordinary way.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is considered one of Germany's greatest authors. He was born on Aug. 28, 1749, in Frankfurt and wrote poems, plays and novels, now considered classics of German literature.

Debate about thank-yous boils over among readers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Insulted in Ohio" (July 9) was offended because she's being asked at bridal and baby showers to address a blank envelope so the honoree can send her a thank-you note. Good heavens, lady, calm down.

At a shower, you are celebrating a milestone event in a young woman's life. Your gift will help her during the next phase of her life. These joyous events can be stressful and require a lot of preparation. I'm sure the hostess's intent in asking guests to perform this minor task is to ease the honoree's responsibilities. It also ensures the addresses appear correctly on the envelopes and everyone is accounted for on the gift list. Is that really so "insulting"?

"Ohio," if you feel so imposed-upon being asked to do such a simple thing, may I offer a suggestion? Gift the honoree with your "regrets" and leave your judgmental attitude at home. (I'll bet you count the days until you're thanked, too.)

GAIL IN NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

DEAR GAIL: Thank-you notes are a hot-button issue with my readers, and frankly, I am surprised more of you didn't stick up for "Insulted." However, I stand firm in my conviction that the more personal the thank-you note (including the envelope), the better. My newspaper readers comment:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: With the advent of email, social networking and online invitation sites, mailing addresses are used less often. I'd be hard-pressed to find the street addresses of some of my closest friends and relatives. As part of the younger generation, I'm more comfortable with email. If I were hosting one of these events, I'd have to kindly ask guests to write down their addresses for me to use later for thank-yous. And because it's being done on paper, it might as well be on the envelopes—a practical, time-saving solution.

JENNY IN QUEBEC, CANADA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm also from Ohio, and I was insulted, too. It appalled me being asked to address my own future thank-you envelope. And would you like to know the kicker? I never received the envelope or a thank-you after the shower.

CARLA T.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: While the practice does seem a little over the top, there are creative alternatives. At a baby shower, my sisters gave everyone index cards and asked them to write down their name and address and guess the baby's birth weight and length. The guest who came closest would be mailed a prize. It was a way to ensure I had everyone's address for thank-you cards. At bridal showers, a blank address book can be passed around for guests to write their contact information. The book is then presented to the bride for her new home.

MELANIE IN THE MIDWEST

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: To save a busy bride or mother-to-be time and effort, addressing my envelope is another "gift" I can give her. All the envelopes could then be placed in a basket, with one being drawn for the "door prize."

LYNN IN DULUTH, MINN.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Insulted" could take one of her return address stickers with her to the shower and place it on the envelope provided. It's less work. This new party ritual is not the result of poor manners, but a logical change for changing times.

NOT A WHINER DOWN SOUTH

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The personal message the gift recipient writes on the card is more important than who might have addressed the envelope it came in.

ARLENE IN NEW YORK

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Because each of my guests addressed her envelope, I finished all my thank-yous in the week after the shower and sent them out promptly. People should not complain about the punctuality of thank-yous if they refuse an opportunity to ensure they receive them in a timely manner.

CARRIE IN ST. LOUIS

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Estate of
RAYMOND S. FITAL,
Deceased.

Civil Action
No. 11-0171-A

NOTICE OF
HEARING ON
PETITION
FOR LETTERS
OF
ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
RAYMOND S. FITAL OR OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marianas Public Land Trust ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration of the Estate of Raymond S. Fitial, deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres Esq. Attorney at Law.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Petitioner has been set for 6th day of September, 2011 at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma-Hustisia, Saipan. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

/s/CLERK OF COURT

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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The image is a collage. In the foreground, a white cup of black coffee sits on a matching saucer with a silver spoon. Behind the coffee, there's a newspaper clipping. The clipping has a headline "Minor wins doubles in Australia" and a sub-headline "Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament." The reporter is identified as Roselyn B. Monroy. To the left of the coffee, there's a small comic strip titled "Adam@home" showing a man and a woman. Above the coffee, there's a small photo of two men, Alomar and Blyleven, with the text "Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame". The background of the collage is a large, stylized "Saipan Tribune" newspaper masthead. The masthead also includes the text "CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER" and "FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011". There's a price tag "50¢" and a section titled "REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK" by Jayvee Vallejera. The overall theme is related to sports and local news.

Usain Bolt out after jumping the gun in 100 finals



DAEGU, South Korea (AP)—Still fuming from his false start that knocked him from the 100-meter final, Usain Bolt crouched slightly on the line and waited. Then he zipped into the darkness of a deserted practice track.

There, only a short hike from the main stadium, he didn't have to worry about jumping the gun.

Bolt missed out on defending his title Sunday when he jumped from the blocks early at the world championships. He was disqualified by a highly debated zero-tolerance false start rule enacted last year.

"He's human, isn't he? I always knew he was human," said his coach, Glen Mills. "He will pick himself up. He's a champion."

Just not on this night.

Bolt knew instantly it was his error, too. Soon after the gun went off, soon after taking just a few steps out of the blocks, another gun blasted—the knot-in-your-stomach sound for any sprinter.

Bolt's eyes grew big. He pulled his shirt over his face, then ripped it off and whipped it around in his hand. Grudgingly, Bolt left the stage he has dominated since the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Instead, it was left to another Jamaican to wrap himself in the country's flag—Yohan Blake, a 21-year-old up-and-comer that former Olympic gold medalist Maurice Greene predicted to win.

Blake finished in a modest time of 9.92 seconds, 0.16 seconds ahead of American rival Walter Dix. Kim Collins of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the 2003 world champion and now an aging 35-year-old veteran, was third.

"Definitely, I wasn't focusing on beating Usain," Blake said. "I was just focusing on finishing in the top three."

This was also a day that Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee sprinter known as the "Blade Runner," showed he indeed belongs on the same track with able-bodied athletes at big meets.

Springing along on his carbon-fiber blades, Pistorius advanced to the semifinals of the 400.

"A big sense of relief," he said.

On the track, it was a big show for the Americans. Defending champion Trey Hardee and Ashton Eaton gave the U.S. its first 1-2 decathlon finish at the worlds. Brittney Reese defended her long jump title, and Allyson Felix breezed into the finals of the 400 with an easy win in her heat.

This entire competition was setting up as a stroll for Bolt. Jamaican teammate Asafa Powell withdrew just before the event began because of a groin injury, and American rival Tyson Gay was out with a hip injury. As if to underscore how easy this might be, Bolt cruised through his previous two rounds.

Then he false started. It wasn't even close. He's 6-foot-5 and it's clear when he stands up in the blocks too soon.

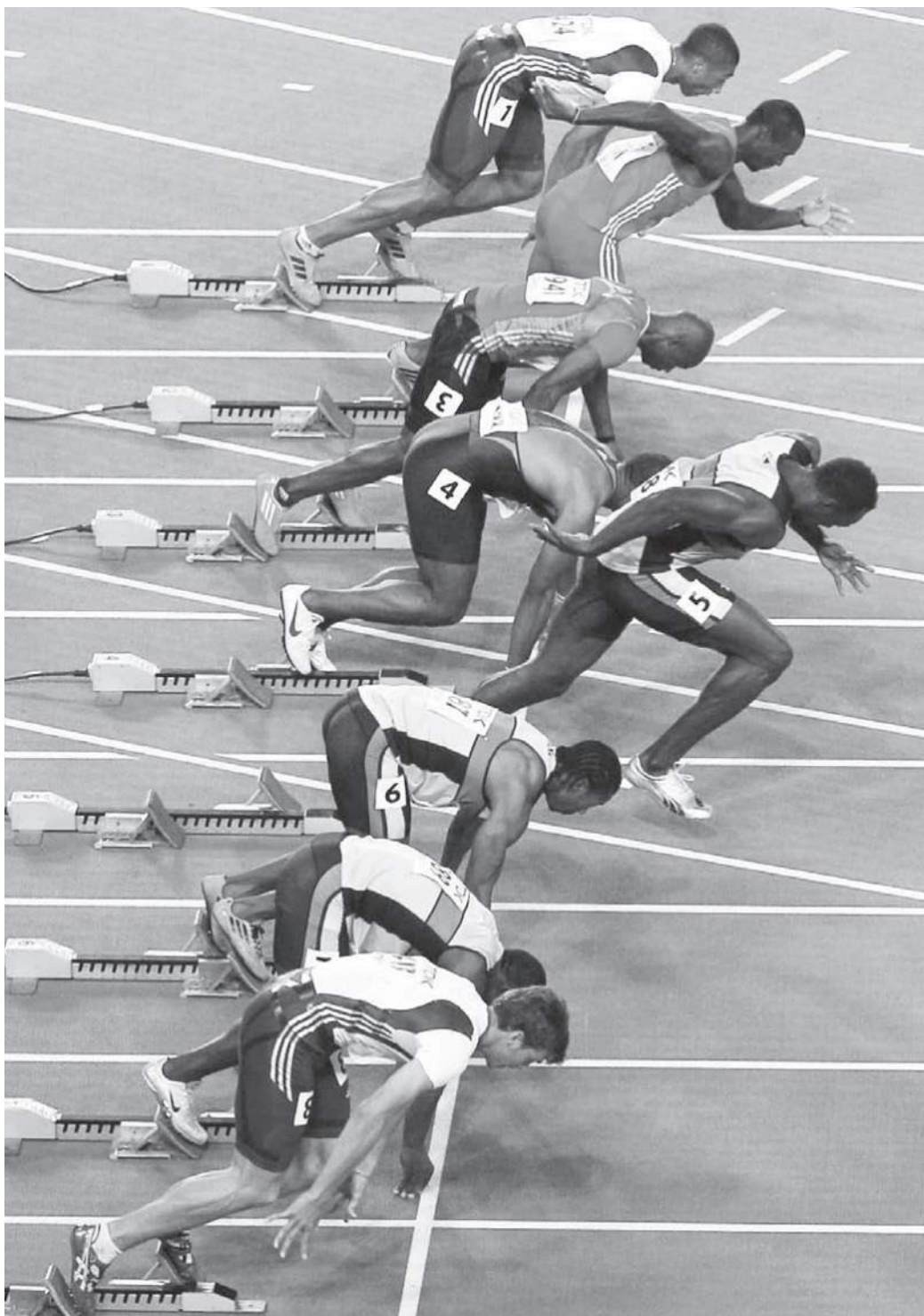
His night done, Bolt gathered his stuff, slung his backpack over his shoulder and headed down the tunnel that leads out of the stadium. He wouldn't talk, glaring at anyone who got too close or tried to ask any sort of question as he walked up a path. He went through a fenced gate that leads to the warmup track, typically off limits to all but the competitors.

Once there, he joined a group of friends and coaches, throwing down his backpack, taking a swig of water, dumping some on his head and tossing the bottle aside. He sat down briefly before jumping up and heading onto the track.

Bolt lined up in Lane 6—one spot from his lane assignment in the final—waited a second to compose his thoughts and took off down the runway with just a few eyes watching him. He traveled about 100 meters, turned around, jogged back and went again.

Four times he repeated that. Four times he paused at the starting line.

He was getting back on the horse again.



Jamaica's Usain Bolt, fourth from bottom, false starts from the Men's 100m final at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011.

After his cool-down, some encouraging words from the Jamaican contingent and a quick massage, Bolt trudged across a grass field to catch a ride. Before he could reach the safety of his car, though, he was met by a few reporters.

"Looking for tears? Not go-

ing to happen," said Bolt, his agitation beginning to subside. "I'm OK."

Enough to run the 200 meters? "You'll see on Friday," he said, referring to the start date of the race.

Change the false-start rule? Silence. And then the car ush-

ered him away.

"I didn't really think they were going to kick him out," Dix said. "How can you kick Usain out of the race?"

This is typically Bolt's stage, but the world-record holder had a little company Sunday in Pistorius and Hardee. Other winners

were Ibrahim Jeilan of Ethiopia (10,000), Valeriy Borchin of Russia (20-kilometer walk) and Li Yanfeng of China (discus).

Still, Bolt found a way to steal the spotlight from Pistorius and everyone else. This 100 will be known not so much for Blake's crowning achievement but the one in which Bolt jumped the gun.

"I didn't expect that from him," Blake said. "I had to just keep my head, keep the focus and get the job done for Jamaica."

Leading to the worlds, Dix, a two-time Olympic bronze medalist, said he was in the kind of shape to possibly upset Bolt. Only he didn't count on Blake, or being so hesitant following the ousting of Bolt.

"You kind of wanted to sit in the blocks and not move," Dix said. "I definitely thought I could have been more competitive than running from the back. It was great to put the U.S. back on the medal stand."

As did Hardee and Reese, who defended their world titles, along with Eaton, who used a fast 1,500 in the final event of the decathlon to move into second place.

A smooth-running Felix had no trouble moving on to the final of the 400, while teammate and defending champion Sanya Richards-Ross had all sorts of anxiety.

Richards-Ross fought back tears as she watched the final heat of the semifinals. She had a tenuous grip on the last ticket to the final after a shaky performance. Only when her spot was secure did Richards-Ross deeply exhale.

"That was more than close," she said. "Got to shake it off."

Felix is chasing a double in Daegu in the 200 and 400. She has been trying to conserve energy and not push the pace. Yet even when she's trying to hold back she's difficult to beat.

Bolt used to be impossible to beat at major championships. But that was before he jumped the gun.

California beats Japan 2-1 to take LLWS



S O U T H WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (A P) — A n

American flag draped around his shoulders, Braydon Salzman couldn't contain his glee when he found California teammate Nick Pratto to give him a postgame hug.

The boys from Huntington Beach are headed home with a Little League World Series championship.

Pratto singled in the winning run with two outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of sixth inning, and Salzman pitched a complete-game three-hitter in a 2-1 victory Sunday over Hamamatsu City, Japan, and the tournament title.

"USA! USA," yelled fans before Pratto's single.

"I was just thinking. 'Oh God, Oh God,' Before I was getting in the box," the 12-year-old Pratto said. "But once I got into the box, I calmed myself by telling myself to just look for a good pitch."

Pratto's clutch hit returned the World Series title to the United States with the type of victory even the big leaguers dream about. A U.S. team has now won six out of the last seven World Series, with Japan's win last year the exception.

Pratto tossed his helmet into the air after rounding first before his teammates mobbed him in the infield. The teams exchanged handshakes at the

plate before California's giddy players posed at the mound with their new championship banner.

"My team is physically smaller than most of the teams. We didn't think we would get to this stage," Japan manager Akihiro Suzuki, who fought back tears after the game, said through interpreter Kotaro Omori. "All of the players did such a wonderful job to get to this stage."

With runners on first and second, an error by Japan shortstop Gaishi Iguchi on what could have been an inning-ending double play loaded the bases for California. After a force play at the plate, Pratto smacked a solid liner to center off reliever Kazuto Takakura that brought pinch-runner Eric Anderson

home with the winning run.

Pratto did his father, manager Jeff Pratto, proud. Nick Pratto said it was great to have his father as his coach, "but he kind of gets on my nerves sometimes."

It was a fitting end to a tense game marked by excellent pitching and timely defense.

Japan starter Shoto Totsuka struck out five over 4 1-3 innings, giving up a homer to right to California slugger Hagen Danner.

First pitch was delayed more than three hours after the outer bands of Hurricane Irene brought more rain than expected to the Williamsport area.

"The result was bad, but they really tried their best," Suzuki said. "Today's weather was difficult for us to get used too. If the

weather was like this in Japan, we wouldn't have played."

The clouds finally started parting midway through the game, and sunshine draped the complex by the time the California players left the stadium to cheers by friends and family.

Neither team could convert on several chances to break open the pitcher's duel earlier in the game.

With runners on first and second in the top of the sixth, third baseman Dylan Palmer blocked the bag from sliding Japan runner Ken Igeta on a bunt play to help get California get out the inning.

California put runners on first and second with two outs in the fifth, but Takakura got a flyout to end the inning.

Playing right field in the second, Takakura also made a run-

ning catch on fly down the line to save an extra-base hit with a runner on second.

It was Japan running all over the place in the third, flashing trademark hustle to scratch out the game's first run after Seiya Fujita's solid single to left. Pinch-runner Kaito Suzuki moved to second on a bunt and raced toward third with no one covering. The throw bounced into foul territory, allowing Suzuki to score easily.

In a gracious postgame gesture, Japan's players and coaches lined up and exchanged high-fives with the California kids after Huntington Beach did the traditional victory lap around the stadium warning track.

"It's just a dream come true," Danner said. "I never thought we would be in that spot, let alone winning it."

David Price strikes down Toronto



TORONTO
(AP)—David Price struck

out a franchise-record 14 in seven dominant innings, Desmond Jennings hit a pair of solo home runs and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Toronto Blue Jays 12-0 on Sunday.

Price (12-11) broke the team mark for strikeouts shared by Scott Kazmir and James Shields.

Relievers Brandon Gomes and Cesar Ramos each struck out two.

Jennings homered on the first pitch of the game from Brandon Morrow (9-9) and got a career-high four hits. He drove in three runs, scored three, drew a walk and also stole a base from the leadoff spot.

Sean Rodriguez added a two-run homer and Matt Joyce doubled twice during a six-run ninth as the Rays improved to an AL-best 20-9 since July 28.

Price improved to 9-1 with a 1.99 ERA in 11 career starts against Toronto. The Blue Jays lost their fourth straight overall.

Rangers 9, Angels 5

In Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton broke out of a slump with a long two-run homer and the tiebreaking RBI single for AL West-leading Texas.

Hamilton's homer in the third off Jered Weaver tied the game at 4, and his single in the seventh put the Rangers ahead 6-5. The reigning AL MVP had been 3 for 21 without an RBI the past four games.

Texas (76-59) had lost seven of 10 games, watching its division lead against the Angels shrink from seven games to two, before winning the finale against the Angels. The AL West's top two teams don't play again until a three-game series on the West Coast to end the regular season.

Darren Oliver (5-5) pitched a scoreless inning in relief of starter Colby Lewis before the Rangers knocked Weaver (15-7) out of the game.

Orioles 2, Yankees 0, 1st game Yankees 8, Orioles 3, 2nd game

In Baltimore, Curtis Granderson homered twice to take the ma-



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher David Price throws against the Toronto Blue Jays during first-inning AL baseball game action in Toronto on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011.

jor league lead with 38, rookie Ivan Nova won his 10th straight decision, and New York split a day-night doubleheader with Baltimore.

Granderson hit a three-run drive in the third inning and a solo shot in the seventh. He moved past Jose Bautista, who has 37 homers, and assumed the major league lead in RBIs with 107.

Nova (14-4) gave up three runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings, striking out seven and walking two. The right-hander has won seven straight starts and is 10-0 in 11 outings since June 3.

Brian Matusz (1-7) allowed six runs and six hits—including three home runs—in 5 1-3 innings. Adam Jones had two RBIs for the Orioles, whose six-game winning streak ended.

In the first game, Rookie Zach Britton (8-9) allowed four hits over seven innings, and Baltimore extended its winning streak to a season-high six games.

The Orioles had not won six in a row since April 2008.

The game was scoreless until the seventh, when Nick Markakis doubled and Vladimir Guerrero singled.

It was Deter Jeter's 2,402nd game with New York, break-

ing a tie with Mickey Mantle for most in a Yankees uniform. Jeter went 0 for 4 as the designated hitter.

Bartolo Colon (8-9) has lost his last three starts.

Twins 11, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, Luke Hughes hit two home runs to help the Minnesota Twins take out their hitting frustration on Brad Penny and the Detroit Tigers, ending a seven-game losing streak.

Hughes drove in five runs for the first time in his career, backing Brian Duensing (9-13) and sparking the Twins to just their fourth win against the Tigers in their last 19 meetings.

Penny (9-10) gave up eight hits, seven runs and two walks in five innings. He struck out five.

White Sox 9, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Dayan Viciedo made a sudden impact in his return to the majors, hitting a three-run homer in his season debut as the Chicago White Sox beat the Seattle Mariners.

Tyler Flowers connected for his first career grand slam, helping Gavin Floyd (12-10) cruise to victory.

Royals 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Bruce Chen over-

came a shaky first inning to win his career-high fifth straight start and led the Kansas City Royals over the Cleveland Indians.

Chen (10-5) allowed the first four batters of the game to reach base and walked Carlos Santana with the bases loaded to force in Cleveland's only run. The left-hander, who allowed five hits in 7 1-3 innings, is 4-0 in his last five starts against the Indians.

Mike Moustakas' RBI single broke a 1-1 tie in the third for the Royals, who held on to win after losing late leads in the first two games of the series.

Joakim Soria pitched a perfect ninth for his 24th save.

Brewers 3, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, Corey Hart homered for the second time in as many days as the Milwaukee Brewers swept the Chicago Cubs.

Zack Greinke (13-5) improved to 10-0 at Miller Park and didn't allow a hit until Marlon Byrd's fifth-inning effort. In the bottom of the inning, Greinke singled, stole a base for the first time in his career and scored on Hart's blast.

Greinke struck out seven, scattering four hits and two walks.

John Axford allowed a solo homer to Tyler Colvin in the

ninth and third baseman Casey McGehee bobbled two balls before tagging out Byrd to end it. Axford got his 40th save.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 1

In Phoenix, Ian Kennedy pitched seven effective innings to become the National League's first 17-game winner and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the San Diego Padres for their sixth straight victory.

Collin Cowgill hit his first career homer during a four-hit game. He hit a solo shot off Cory Luebke (5-7) in the second inning and added a run-scoring double off Erik Hamren in the eighth.

The NL West-leading Diamondbacks didn't need much more with Kennedy (17-4) pitching. The right-hander settled in after giving up a homer to Orlando Hudson in the second inning, allowing one run or less for the 13th time this season to complete the three-game sweep.

Astros 4, Giants 3, 11 innings

In San Francisco, Matt Downs delivered the winning hit in the 11th inning to give the Houston Astros a win at the stumbling San Francisco Giants.

Jose Altuve got things going

with a one-out double against Ramon Ramirez (2-3) and Downs followed with a single up the middle. Altuve was forced into action after slugger Carlos Lee left in the top of the ninth with a sprained right ankle sustained sliding into second on a double.

Reds 5, Nationals 4

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto led off the 14th inning with his second home run of the game, lifting the Cincinnati Reds over the Washington Nationals.

Votto hit a full-count pitch from Collin Balester (1-3) into the left-field bleachers to push the Reds over .500 for the first time since July 3.

His second career game-ending homer sent the Nationals to a sixth straight loss, tying their season high.

Johnny Cueto and five Reds relievers combined for 19 strikeouts, tying the team record.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, Kyle Lohse went a workmanlike five innings for his 100th career win as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Lohse (12-8) gave up four runs, two of them earned. He allowed six hits, struck out four and walked two.

Lohse also put the Cardinals ahead to stay, getting an infield single in the fourth and scoring on Allen Craig's sacrifice fly for a 5-4 lead.

Pittsburgh has lost four of its last six and fell a season-high 18 games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 6

In Los Angeles, Kevin Kouzmanoff drove in his first four runs since joining Colorado this week, and the Rockies needed five relievers to hold off the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kouzmanoff hit a three-run double in the first inning as Colorado took a 5-0 lead. He later singled home a run, and the six-year veteran tied a career high with four RBIs.

The Rockies got Kouzmanoff from Oakland on Tuesday for either a player to be named or cash. The Dodgers had won five in a row.

Ex-NBA player Crittenton still wanted for murder



ATLANTA (AP)—Javaris Crittenton was wanted on a murder charge as police searched on Saturday for the former NBA player in Atlanta and Los Angeles.

Crittenton has been charged in the fatal shooting of 22-year Jullian Jones, a mother of four who was gunned down Aug. 19 on an Atlanta street.

A spokesman with the Atlanta police said Crittenton was not in custody. Calls to

the FBI and U.S. Marshal's office weren't immediately returned.

Three of Crittenton's neighbors in Fayetteville said SWAT members executed a search warrant last week on his residence.

The neighbors declined to give their names to The Associated Press during interviews near Crittenton's home in an affluent cul-de-sac 17 miles south of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

No one answered the door

at Crittenton's residence, a three-story brick home with a manicured lawn and a small backyard.

Crittenton, who spent the 2006-07 season at Georgia Tech and played in 113 NBA games, allegedly killed Jones with shots fired from a dark-colored SUV, police said.

According to Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos, investigators don't believe Jones was the intended target. His motive, Campos said, appeared to be retaliation for an

April robbery in which Crittenton was a victim.

Messages left for an agent who has represented Crittenton weren't immediately returned Friday or Saturday.

Crittenton, who averaged 5.3 points and 1.8 assists in his career, last played in the NBA during 2008-09. He was sidelined by an ankle injury the following season, during which he and teammate Gilbert Arenas were suspended for a gun-related incident in the Wizards' locker room.

Two days after a dispute stemming from a card game on a team flight, Arenas brought four guns to the locker room and set them in front of Crittenton's locker with a sign telling him to "PICK 1." Crittenton then took out his own gun.

Crittenton pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor gun charge on Jan. 25, 2010, and received probation.

After the Wizards declined to re-sign him, he signed a non-guaranteed contract with Charlotte before last season. The Bobcats waived him Oct. 15, and he then played

five games in China for the Zhejiang Guangsha Lions, averaging 25.8 points. He also played 20 games for the NBDL's Dakota Wizards, averaging 14.3 points.

Crittenton was drafted 19th overall by the Los Angeles Lakers in 2007. He played little with Los Angeles and was traded to Memphis in his rookie year, then to Washington in December 2008.

NBA spokesman Tim Frank wrote in an e-mail to the AP that Crittenton is no longer under contract with Dakota.

"Beyond that I have nothing to add," Frank said.

Cell Pro, Inchcape advance in Blue Haus playoffs

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Cell Pro and Inchcape advanced to the second round of the Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League playoffs after the conclusion of Saturday's matches at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

C Bracket's Cell Pro trailed Lyn's BBQ for three quarters before turning on the jets to shoot past an eight-point deficit heading into the final period and win, 81-70.

A Bracket's Inchcape played sloppy in the second matchup against Start Marianas, but still found a way to get the victory, 76-72.

The Blue Haus tournament utilizes a single-elimination format to determine a finalist in each of its three divisions.

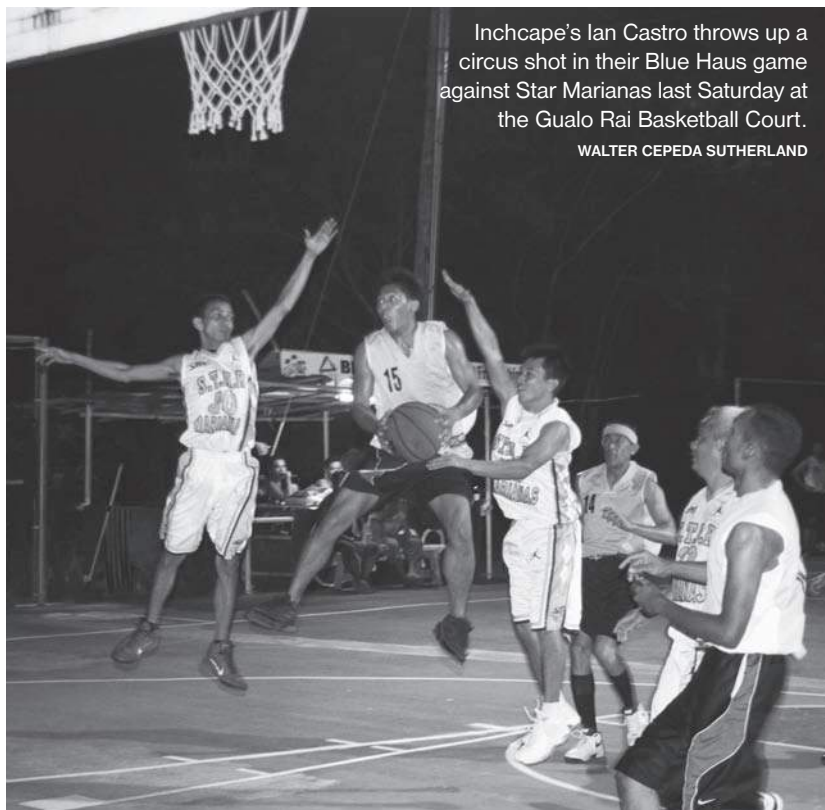
Once determined, the three division champions will compete in a double round-robin format for the title.

Manolo Manalo paced Lyn's BBQ with nine markers in the first quarter as they jumped out to a 21-14 lead after the tip.

Lyn's BBQ then stretched it to a 41-30 margin at the break as Manalo and Dexter Tenorio teamed up for 12 points in the second period.

Cell Pro's Rocyl Ritual provided the bulk of his team's offense with 12 points in the first half.

Lyn's BBQ maintained a promis-



Inchcape's Ian Castro throws up a circus shot in their Blue Haus game against Star Marianas last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

ing 58-50 advantage at the start of the fourth quarter, but fell off a cliff in the final 10 minutes. Lyn's BBQ was stuffed to just 12 points in the clutch, while Cell Pro erupted for 31.

Roger Herrera started the fire with 12 points in Cell Pro's fashionably late performance.

Ritual led Cell Pro with 20 points, while Lyn's BBQ's Tenorio led all

scorers with 25.

In the late match, Star Water took an early 20-13 lead in the opening period thanks largely to 10 points from Erwin Gomez, but Inchcape roared back in the second quarter and turned the table, 39-36, at halftime.

Inchcape's Ian Castro led the charge with nine points in the comeback.

Inchcape came out sloppy in the

third quarter but still managed a slim 59-57 edge, heading into crunch time. Inchcape's Gilbert Miranda delivered six points late in the third quarter to help steady the ship.

Star Water came out with reckless abandon in the final period, as the match continued to go back and forth, but Inchcape pulled it together in the clutch to secure the win.

Veteran player Teddy Bugay came off the bench with six big points in the fourth period.

Miranda led his team with 20 points in the game, while Star Water's Gomez turned in a game-high 27 on the short end.

First Game

Cell Pro 81 – Ritual 20, Herrera 17, Norita 16, L. Itaas 13, Hernandez 9, Lose 4, Tibayan 2.

Lyn's BBQ 70 – Tenorio 25, Manalo 15, Calvo 14, Llagas 7, Vergara 7.

Scoring by quarters: 14-21, 41-30, 50-58, 81-70.

Second Game

Inchcape 76 – Miranda 20, Castro 13, Bugay 11, Marchadesch 8, DL Guerrero 8, Echavez 6, Buniag 5, Quinto 3, Del Rosario 2.

Star Marianas 72 – Gomez 27, Tengco 12, Achas 11, Borja 11, Sacramento 10, Encarnacion 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-20, 39-36, 59-57, 76-72.

CNMI

From Page 28

versial rained-out semis match. Palau is the Pacific Games defending champion, having won in the Samoa Games in 2007 against New Caledonia. American Samoa finished third.

"Our first competition will be tomorrow (today) in baseball, against Palau and its a possible preview of the gold medal game," CNMI chef de mission and NMASA president Michael White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

White added the Commonwealth sluggers, golfers, and beach volleyball players are doing well in New

Caledonia and are excited to play in their first game.

"Everyone is doing fine. The accommodations are satisfactory, the food is good, and the weather is great. The three teams that are here (baseball, beach volleyball, and golf) have all had a chance to practice, and everyone is happy with the sports facilities," White said.

The baseball competition, which will be played in a turf field, started yesterday with the host losing to Guam in the first match 1-3 and Fiji beating American Samoa in the second game, 8-3.

After the CNMI-Palau tiff today, Guam will take on Fiji in the second match. Only six nations are entered in

baseball and they will play in a round-robin competition with only the Top 4 teams advancing to the playoffs.

Both the CNMI and Palau are fielding the core of their 2010 Micro Games team in today's early rematch.

Meanwhile, Ian Rogolifoi, the youngest player on the CNMI Baseball Team, was the flag bearer of the Commonwealth during the opening ceremony last Saturday. The CNMI sluggers were joined in the parade of nations by golfers Jess Wabol, Jess Taylor, Adam Hardwicke, and Tony Satur and beach volleyball players Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson. Athletics' Trevor Ogunmoro, Douglas Dillay, and Rachel Abrams missed the

opening rites, but will join the rest of the CNMI delegates at the Athletes Villages today after leaving Saipan last Sunday evening.

The CNMI golfers, beach volleyball spikers, and tracksters will have their separate competitions later this week.

Meanwhile, preliminary games in football, tennis, table tennis, basketball, cricket, sailing, squash, volleyball, va'a (canoe) started yesterday. As of 7pm (Saipan time) yesterday, the Pacific Games website's medal board has yet to show any nation winning the first medal in the quadrennial meet. Medals are expected to flood when swimming and athletics begin their competitions on Sept. 2 and 5, respectively.

XTERRA

From Page 28

kilometer swim in the cold waters of a lake.

According to Carey, the water temperature was 20 degree Celsius and almost every swimmer wore a full wet suit. She eventually finished the first leg of the race third overall with a time of 16:26, about a minute behind eventual No. 1 finisher Conrad Stoltz (15:16) of South Africa and Great Britain's Michael Hiscott (15:43)

After a smooth swim, Carey's real test began in the 25-km bike race.

"I almost fell into a cliff at the first 4K and hit my handle bar hard. The handlebar bent to the right. I had to run to find bike tools. It was my fault I only brought a pump, but not tools," Carey said.

In the middle of the race, she had to shout and asked fellow bikers for tools. Unfortunately, no one stopped and Carey decided to return to the transition area and fix her bike. She lost about 10 minutes in the race.

The misfortunes did not end there, as Carey also had her bike chains break

twice. Then there was the tricky and slippery course.

"There were many trees and mud were all over. When I and Kevin (Carey) did this race last year, I told him the 25K bike is 20K bike and 5K run because you really have to carry your bike. There are times when you want to throw the bike and slide yourself because it is very steep down hill," the Micronesian Games gold medalist said.

Despite these odds, Carey soldiered on and even forgot the problem with her bike's shock.

"All those challenges (bar bend,

chain off) made me forget about the shock. I just rode as fast as I can and went to transition 2. When I just started the run the announcer said first man, Conrad, will come back soon to finish. He is a monster," said Carey, who submitted 1:50:43 in the bike leg against Stoltz's 1:19:45.

With her bike problems now history, Carey had enough juice left for the 10K run.

"The run was awesome. You use a rope to climb to the cliff. I felt good after the bike race so I ran and enjoyed the moment. I pushed hard and I went

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	82	51	.617	—
New York	79	52	.603	2
Tampa Bay	73	59	.553	8 1/2
Toronto	66	67	.496	16
Baltimore	53	78	.405	28

Central Division

Detroit	73	60	.549	—
Chicago	66	65	.504	6
Cleveland	65	65	.500	6 1/2
Minnesota	56	77	.421	17
Kansas City	55	79	.410	18 1/2

West Division

Texas	76	59	.563	—
Los Angeles	72	61	.541	3
Oakland	60	73	.451	15
Seattle	56	76	.424	18 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	83	46	.643	—
Atlanta	79	54	.594	6
New York	62	68	.477	21 1/2
Washington	62	70	.470	22 1/2
Florida	59	72	.450	25

Central Division

Milwaukee	81	54	.600	—
St. Louis	70	64	.522	10 1/2
Cincinnati	67	66	.504	13
Pittsburgh	62	71	.466	18
Chicago	57	77	.425	23 1/2
Houston	44	90	.328	36 1/2

West Division

Arizona	75	59	.560	—
San Francisco	71	63	.530	4
Colorado	64	70	.478	11
Los Angeles	62	70	.470	12
San Diego	60	74	.448	15

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROLLERS

From Page 28

shots in the clutch and although Rollers 1 drained a couple of 3-balls to hang around, Rollers 2's point man Sacramento held it together to secure the win.

Rollers 2's Metran turned in a game-high 13 points, while Rollers 1's John Cenir managed 12 in the loss.

The U19 season continues tomorrow with the undefeated Ol'Aces (3-0) squaring off against winless NMC Proa (0-2) at 5pm.

RBC 2 57 – Metran 13, Danas 10, Sacramento 9, DLGuerrero 7, Vertudez 6, Ano 4, Orejola 2, Iglecias 2, Rabauliman 2, Maranan 2.

RBC 1 53 – Cenir 12, Darag 8, Norita 8, L. DLGuerrero 8, Francisco 7, Kwon 4, Diaz 2, Nakayama 2, Suarez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-10, 35-25, 43-43, 57-53.

to the finish line in 3:00:25. I could not make it under three hours, but I was just happy and had a big smile when I finished," said Carey, who completed the last leg of the race in 53:16.

The CNMI bet is still in Japan and would like to thank her Saipan supporters for their messages.

"I was so surprised how many people gave me great words and I really thank them for their support," said Carey, who also thanked Hornet Bike Shop, IT&E, Brabu, Bike Pro, Salomon, Suunto and Zoot. "I am excited to go back to Saipan and train for XTERRA World."

JETS

From Page 28

Duenas and Rollon worked early for MDX, as they teamed up for 16 first-quarter points for their 26-22 lead. Hossain and Eugene Manglona kept the Jets afloat, firing seven and 10 points, respectively.

The MDX 1-2 punch reasserted its might on offense in the second period, while Hossain lost an ally when Manglona was held to only a field goal. With Duenas and Rollon still at it, MDX kept

the driver's seat at the break, 54-46.

Rollon slowed down in the third, but Duenas was there to keep the fire burning, adding 11 more points and stretching MDX's lead to nine, 73-65. Duenas won his third-quarter duel against Hossain, who canned only two field goals in that canto.

MDX made in an 11-point advance, 75-64, after James Rabauliman's basket at the start of the fourth period. However, the Jets slowly closed in with Hossain piloting the recovery and his three other teammates providing the needed support.

Filcag/Rollers 83, SIP 75

In the other game last weekend, Filcag/Rollers outclassed Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, 83-75.

Josh Kiyoshi, Brandon Aurelio, and Pat Torres joined forces in giving Filcag its first win in two games.

Kiyoshi and Aurelio were simply too much for SIP, as the former logged 25 big points and the latter chipped in 15. SIP's leading scorer—Jack Aranda—mustered only 12, making most of them when Filcag was already in control of the match.

Kiyoshi was unstoppable in the third

period where he scored 13 straight points to power Filcag to a 60-55 lead, entering the final canto.

Kiyoshi added six more in the fourth, but the quarter belonged to Torres, who nailed nine of his 11 markers in that canto. Aurelio contributed five.

First Game

Filcag/Rollers 83 – Kiyoshi 25, Aurelio 15, Galarse 12, Torres 11, Namelo 4, Brennan 4, Cruz 4, Eubanks 4, Iglecias 2.

SIP 75 – Aranda 12, R. Salem 11,

Alegre 10, Cenir 9, De Guzman 8, Saturno 7, Darag 6, N. Salem 6, Palacios 5.

Scoring by quarters: 21-15, 37-40, 60-55, 83-75.

Second Game

AFP/Jets 89 – Hossain 33, Manglona 18, Webb 11, Deleon 7, Caro 5, Aguilar 4, Cadiang 3, Benavente 3.

MDX 86 – Duenas 27, Rollon 20, Devero 10, Metran 6, Maranan 4, Castro 4, Vertudez 4, Ano 4, Salas 3, Rabauliman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-26, 46-54, 64-73, 89-86.

Ex-Japanese Pro Football Clinic

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan watches two MP United players in action during a brief scrimmage.



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan officiates a friendly match among U12 players.



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan, right, is joined in the clinic by five players from Japan's Thomas Soccer School. Also in the photo is NMIFA head coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, left.



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan and his assistant Ryota Otomo gesture to the clinic participants.



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan shows some kicking techniques.



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura, seventh third row, of Japan poses with U10 players who participated in a clinic yesterday at the Oleia Sports Complex Field.



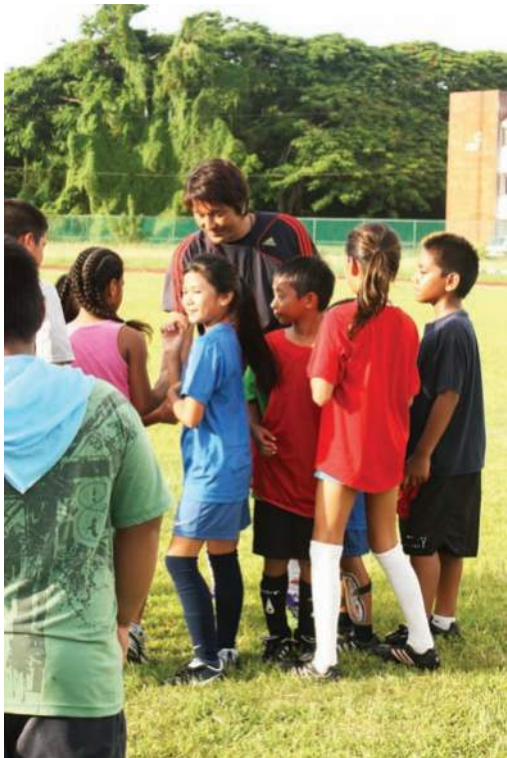
U12 players join former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan for a group photo after a clinic at the Oleia Sports Complex Field.



Former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan shows some ball juggling skills.



Shirley's FC and Matansa FC players listen to the instructions of former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan and his assistant Ryota Otomo.



Youth players shake hands with former professional striker Atsuhiro Miura of Japan after the clinic.



**Usain Bolt out
after jumping the
gun in 100 finals**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**David Price
strikes down
Toronto**

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28 TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI sluggers face Palau today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth sluggers will begin the CNMI's bid in the 2011 Pacific Games today when they play Palau at 9am (8am Saipan time) at the Baseball Mont-Dore at Mont-Dore in New Caledonia.



The CNMI-Palau tussle is a rematch of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Koror and manager Tony Rogoli-foi's wards are eyeing for vengeance. Palau defeated the CNMI in last year's Micro Games gold medal match, 7-3. The Commonwealth bets bowed to Palau two times last year, losing a contro-

See **CNMI** on **Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI and Palau players exchange hi-fives after their gold medal match in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Koror. The two Micronesian teams meet anew today in the second day of baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

3rd XTERRA Japan win not piece of cake for Mieko

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mieko Carey's triumph in the 2011 XTERRA Japan will not be complete without her sharing the tough challenges she had to endure to win the race in Marunuma.

The hurdles started two days before the race when Carey went for a practice ride last Thursday and saw fluid seeping from her bike's shock.

"I could not lock or unlock my shock. If it is always unlocked, it loses air. I went to a mechanic, but the guy told me he could not fix it so I have to

replace it. I called a friend who came to Marunuma the next day and we went to a bike shop to buy a new shock. But the shop have to order from another company," Carey said.

In the end, the CNMI triathlete decided to stay with her bike.

"I could not sleep at all because I am worried about my bike. I have no choice but trust my bike. If I had to run the whole bike course with my bike, that will be my fate for the day," the 33-year-old athlete said.

With that settled, Carey shifted her focus to the first leg of the race—the 1.2-

See **XTERRA** on **Page 26**



Mieko Carey poses with fellow pros before the start of the swim leg of the 2011 XTERRA Japan Championship last Saturday in Marunuma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Rollers 2 top Rollers 1, 57-53

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rollers Basketball Club's Rollers 2 triumphed over sister team Rollers 1, 57-53, in last night's 20th Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League U19 matchup held at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The win improved Rollers 2's win-loss slate to 2-1, while their counterparts' now sit with a 1-2 card.

Rollers 2's Rodney Sacramento paced his team with five points in the

opening quarter, as he and his crew managed an early 13-10 edge.

A couple of early 3-pointers followed by a strategic line change helped Rollers 2 pull ahead, 35-25, at the half. Rollers 2's Sheen Metran led the charge with seven points in the second quarter.

Rollers 1 made some adjustments during the pause and contained their rival to just eight points in the third period as they fought their way back to the tie game at 43-all, heading into the final quarter.

Both teams forced a lot of poor

See **ROLLERS** on **Page 26**

Rollers 2's Jomar Danas beats the defense on a fastbreak during their Rotary caging game against Rollers 1 last night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Jets' Eugene Manglona, seen here breaking away for a layup in their win over Laguna in the UFO Docomo Cup, scored 18 points in their 89-86 victory over MDX last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Jets slip past MDX in UFO Docomo Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The AFP/Jets handed MDX its first loss in the UFO Inter-Organization Youth Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 after escaping with an 89-86 win during their game last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

MDX had its two-game winning run snapped after wasting an 11-point advantage in the early goings of the fourth quarter. The Jets stole the victory after outgunning MDX in the playoff period, 25-13. The two teams are now tied for the lead with their similar 2-1 records.

Sajh Hossain led the Jets' come-from-behind win, knocking in seven points in the fourth quarter, four of them were made in the closing seconds of the match. Kevin De Leon also helped the Jets' cause, drilling five of his seven markers in the final canto. Ton Webb and Ezra Caro combined for nine to give the Jets the needed lift at crunch time.

Dave Rollon was the lone MDX player to hit more than one field goal in the fourth and finished with a team second-best 20 markers. Matt Duenas paced MDX with 27, but was scoreless in the playoff period.

See **JETS** on **Page 26**